

France to help peace efforts

BAGHDAD (AP) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Sunday France will press its partners in the European Economic Community (EEC) to assist in an international effort for the resumption of the deadlocked Iraq-Iran peace talks. After a meeting later Sunday with President Saddam Hussein, Dumas also said that France was ready for an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict. "France believes that the Middle East peace conference is the key to the settlement of all issues in the area and it is ready to attend it," he said. "The outcome of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers has paved the way for such a conference." The Iraqi News Agency reported after the Dumas-Hussein meeting that "the views of the two sides were identical on the topics discussed," including the Gulf war peace talks and the peace conference. Dumas, on a one-day visit to Baghdad, told a press conference that France would continue its role in the international effort to get the Iraq-Iran peace talks moving, and bring about a lasting peace between the two Gulf countries.

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Baghdad denies seeking summit

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq denied Sunday that it had discussed the possibility of holding an emergency Arab League summit in Baghdad about Middle East peace. An Information Ministry official was commenting on a Reuters report from Kuwait Friday quoting Arab diplomats as saying Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) were campaigning to convene a summit in the Iraqi capital. "This report is completely incorrect," said the official, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA). "Iraq has never called for holding a summit conference in Baghdad and has not talked to any Arab (leader) about this idea." The Reuters report said the aim of an emergency summit would be to readmit Egypt to the Arab League and coordinate peace policy before U.S. President-elect George Bush takes office in mid-January. The next ordinary Arab League summit is due to be held in Saudi Arabia at a date still to be fixed. The Iraqi official said Baghdad's policy had been, and still was, that the meeting should take place in Saudi Arabia.

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Al Hussein consults Iraqi and N. Yemeni leaders

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein exchanged views on Arab and international issues and issues of mutual interest with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The exchange of views which fell within the framework of Arab consultations and coordination came in telephone conversations the King made with the two leaders, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The King made a similar exchange of views Saturday with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Masri leaves for Geneva

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri left for Geneva Sunday to attend the U.N. General Assembly session on Palestine which begins Tuesday and deliver Jordan's address to the session.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday visits the Armenian patriarchate in Amman to offer condolences over last week's earthquake in Soviet Armenia (Petra photo)

Jordan sends relief to Armenia

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Sunday sent a plane load of medicine and relief supplies to the Soviet Union to help victims of last Wednesday's earthquake which killed tens of thousands of people in Soviet Armenia and left hundreds of thousands of homeless.

The supplies, sent aboard a Royal Jordanian Air Force plane, was dispatched upon the instructions of His Majesty King Hussein in response to a call by the Soviet Red Cross for international help for the quake victims, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said quoting an official statement.

The statement said the supplies were a gift from the Jordanian people to the friendly Soviet Union and a reflection of the Jordanian people's solidarity with and sympathy for the Soviet people over the disaster.

Later in the day, the King received Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinchuk, who conveyed to him the thanks of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet people for the Jordanian help as well as for a message of

condolences over last week's earthquake in Soviet Armenia (Petra photo)

condolences the King sent to the Soviet Union following the quake.

Crown Prince condoles community

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sunday visited the Armenian patriarchate in Amman and offered condolences to the Armenian community in Jordan over the disaster in Armenia.

The Crown Prince was received by the Armenian bishop in Jordan, Vahan Topalian, and a number of citizens, Petra said.

Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and several senators visited the Soviet embassy in Amman Sunday and offered condolences over the disaster that struck Armenia.

The Foreign Ministry meanwhile announced that it had received a message from the Jordanian embassy in Moscow saying that all Jordanian students in the Republic of Armenia were safe and sound and that no Jordanian was hurt in the earthquake.

Their Majesties today begin visit to France Rifai: Jordan hopes Europe can advance peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, who begins an official visit to France Monday, is exerting renewed efforts with the European countries to realise the goal of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai said Sunday.

In an interview with the French news agency, AFP, on the eve of the King's visit, Rifai expressed hope that European efforts would result in a formula acceptable to both superpowers on peace in the Middle East.

Earlier, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that the King, who will be accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, will hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, Prime Minister Michel Rocard and other senior French leaders during the three-day visit.

"We hope that the European role will find a formula acceptable particularly to the United States and the Soviet Union," Rifai told AFP. "We realise that any new move towards convening

an international peace conference requires U.S.-Soviet agreement."

Rifai voiced hope that the new U.S. administration of George Bush, who assumes presidency in January, would open a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the first step towards convening the proposed international conference.

Jordan does not believe that the American refusal to grant an entry visa to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to address the United Nations General Assembly reflects the new administration's policy, Rifai said.

Asked if Arafat's speech to the special U.N. debate on Palestine in Geneva Tuesday was coordinated with Jordan, Rifai noted that the PLO chairman was in Am-

man when Washington announced its decision to reject his visa request.

"We discussed this issue with Arafat and we had the impression that Arafat fully realised that the decision was taken by (U.S. Secretary of State George) Shultz alone and perhaps it had personal considerations and dimensions," Rifai said. "Therefore, we do not believe that Arafat holds the new U.S. administration responsible for Shultz's decision or that the refusal of the visa will affect his position. It is enough for the PLO and the Palestinian cause that 154 states voted in favour of moving the U.N. debate on Palestine from New York to Geneva so that Arafat can address the session."

Asked if the position of the new American administration vis-a-vis the Palestine question will be more positive, Rifai said that the U.S. position "is based on former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's terms which stipulate that the PLO should recognise Israel's rights to exist and accept the convening of an international peace conference along the lines of U.N. Security



Zaid Rifai

Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to renounce terrorism. Jordan believes that the Palestine National Council (PNC) has met these conditions, and thus there is no reason for the United States not to recognise the PLO and to start a dialogue with it. We hope that the new administration will start a dialogue with the PLO as a necessary and preparatory step for convening the international peace conference."

(Continued on page 2)

AROUND THE WORLD...

Pakistani president to be elected today

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani lawmakers will choose Monday among four candidates for president but the incumbent, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, is the heavy favourite to win a full, five-year term. About 800 members of the Senate, National Assembly and four provincial assemblies will act as an electoral college. Voting begins at 0900 GMT and ends at 1000 GMT. Results are expected to be announced by 1700 GMT. Of the four candidates, only Ishaq Khan, 73, of the conservative Pakistan Muslim League, has the support both of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and the right-wing opposition alliance which is headed by the Muslim League. The other candidates are veteran politician Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan of the tiny right-of-centre Pakistan Democratic Party, prominent businessman Ahmed E.H. Jaffer and Mohammad Nazrooz Malik, a relative unknown.

'Nir, North wanted Soviet tank'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former U.S. national security aide Oliver North and the late Amirian Nir had planned to acquire a highly sophisticated Soviet tank in Syria and ship it to the United States, a published report said Saturday. The American magazine U.S. News and World Report, quoting unnamed intelligence sources and referring to North's still secret notebooks, said the agreement called for Israel to send an Arabic speaking arms expert with a fake Syrian passport into that country with the help of "unnamed Polish confederates." The target of the expedition was an advanced version of the Soviet Union's T-72 high-tech battle tank, the magazine said in its "Washington Whispers" column. The plan, in which the tank would be shipped to the United States "via a circuitous route," was aborted because of disclosure of the Iran-contra affair in November 1986, the magazine said.

Ozal begins 11-day visit to U.S.

ANKARA (AP) — Premier Turgut Ozal Sunday left for an 11-day tour of the United States which will include a meeting with President Ronald Reagan at the White House Thursday. Before departing from Ankara's Esenboga airport on a special jetliner, Ozal told reporters that he would also meet President-elect George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and some members of Congress.

Iraqi leader visits Oman

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan arrived in Muscat Sunday with a message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id, the Omani News Agency said. The agency quoted Ramadan as saying the message dealt with inter-Arab relations. Ramadan visited Abu Dhabi Saturday and took a similar message to United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

Hirohito said to be virtually comatose

TOKYO (AP) — Emperor Hirohito was almost completely comatose Sunday following several days of heavy internal bleeding, news reports said. In an unusual move, both Grand Steward Shohchi Fujimori and Grand Chamberlain Satoru Yamamoto were at the imperial palace Sunday, Kyodo News Service reported. National newspapers quoted unidentified palace sources as saying the 87-year-old emperor's heavy hemorrhaging this past week and resulting declines in his blood pressure had caused a sharp deterioration in his consciousness and his liver and kidney functions.

UAE recalls ambassador to Sudan

ABU DHABI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sunday recalled its ambassador to Sudan to protest the decision of the Sudanese government to release a man who broke into the UAE embassy in Khartoum last month. "The UAE decided to recall its ambassador to ensure his safety," said Yacoub Al Kindi, acting Foreign Ministry under-secretary in a statement to the official news agency WAM. A Sudanese gunman broke into the UAE's Khartoum embassy on Nov. 9. He held up the ambassador and five aides hostage for four hours, demanding employment for himself and other Sudanese in the UAE. Other reports said he was demanding release of companions in UAE jails. "The man committed a crime that is punishable by law," Kindi was quoted as telling the Sudanese ambassador to the UAE. The agency quoted him as adding that "the UAE regrets to have taken such decision, and looks on Sudan as a sister country."

Relief effort in full swing in quake-hit area

Rescue plane crashes in Armenia; 79 killed

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A Soviet military transport plane carrying troops to aid earthquake-stricken Armenia crashed on approach to Leninakan airport Sunday, killing 70 soldiers and nine crew, TASS news agency said.

The air tragedy occurred five days after the worst quake in Armenia in centuries. Soviet officials say preliminary estimates indicate between 40,000 and 45,000 people died in Wednesday's tremor.

The Tlyushin-76 went down as it was approaching the small airport at Leninakan, a city of 290,000 near the Turkish border, largely reduced to rubble by the quake.

TASS did not say what caused the crash. But the airport, expanded by soldiers after the quake, has been the scene of frantic activity. Scores of planes land daily with supplies and rescue teams from the Soviet Union and around the world.

Moscow Radio said 300 cargo planes had made deliveries to the stricken areas in the last few days.

The radio said "a permanent air bridge" linked Armenia with the rest of the country, adding that the planes were taking off

and landing around the clock and in any weather.

TASS carried an official announcement of the crash by the Communist Party and Soviet government.

"With a feeling of profound grief we express deep condolences to the relatives of those who hurried to help the Armenian nation and earned the eternal gratitude of the Soviet people," the announcement said.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev went to Armenia Saturday to supervise the rescue operations. He returned to Moscow Sunday after visiting the quake areas and talking with survivors.

The soldiers who died were to join more than 20,000 Soviet troops already helping survivors of the quake, which devastated the cities of Leninakan and Korovakan and flattened the town of Spitak.

The troops are helping dig through debris in a desperate search for anyone who may still be alive. They have also set up medical centres and army field kitchens.

Rescue teams, using equipment pouring in from around the world, pulled 200 people alive from the basement of a factory

wrecked in the quake, Soviet newspapers said Sunday.

They recounted graphic tales of unusual rescues and of mass tragedy in the area bordering Turkey, where the quake razed one town and destroyed vast sections of two cities.

On Saturday, television news showed photographs of Gorbachev and his wife Raisa comforting survivors in Leninakan. Most of the city, Armenia's second largest, was destroyed.

Newspapers said the arrival of new equipment, especially heavy cranes, was enabling rescuers to pull survivors from huge piles of rubble that were once their homes and places of work.

"When the new equipment arrived, a powerful crane tore free a concrete slab of several tonnes from the basement of a factory and 200 people emerged intact and almost unharmed," reported Sovetskaya Rossiya from Leninakan.

"It turned out that workers and officials managed to go down into the basement without panicking and spent more than two days waiting for the help that came."

Criticism of the rescue effort

(Continued on page 2)

Tutu dares Pretoria to try him for treason

JOHANNESBURG (A) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu Sunday challenged the government to charge him with treason, saying he is as guilty as four black activists sentenced to prison last week.

Also, a human rights group released the text of an open letter to President P.W. Botha from blacks detained without charge at Johannesburg prison, demanding that they be tried or freed.

Tutu, in an article written for the Sunday Star newspaper, protested the sentences imposed Thursday at the end of a three-year treason trial. Four activists, including three senior leaders of the United Democratic Front (UDF), received prison terms ranging from 6 to 12 years for treason.

Tutu, leader of the Anglican Church in southern Africa, was a sponsor of the UDF when the nationwide anti-apartheid coalition was formed in 1983 and has supported it steadfastly since then. The group was banned in February, and the judge in the treason trial declared it a revolutionary organisation which sought the violent overthrow of the gov-

ernment.

"If these four men have committed treason, then I have committed treason and should face charges as well," Tutu wrote.

"Whatever happens, I will campaign as I have never campaigned before until they are released," he said. "Whether or not the law was properly applied, the effect of this judgment will be to discourage people from peaceful opposition."

The fourth activist convicted of treason, along with the UDF leaders, was Tom Manthata, a South African council of churches field worker. Manthata was dispatched by Tutu in 1984 to monitor the township unrest which prompted the treason charges.

The Johannesburg detainees, in a letter released by South Africa's recently established Human Rights Commission, said they would observe a one-day fast Monday to protest the country's 30-month-old state of emergency.

Emergency regulations allow indefinite detention without charge. An estimated 30,000 people have been detained for varying periods during the emergency, and about 1,000 are



Desmond Tutu

believed to be held currently.

In their letter to Botha, the detainees said: "We have in our midst people who have been kept more than 24 months in detention... we have children whose lives are being wasted here and who may not recuperate from the effects of detention... some held with us have been tortured."

"If you are convinced that we committed some sort of crime, you have the courts of law to try us," the letter said. "It is against this background that we categorically demand our immediate release."

Labour, Likud to set terms for coalition

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres appointed negotiating teams Sunday to work out terms for a new "national unity" government between their Likud and Labour parties.

Energy Minister Moshe Shalev, a member of the three-man Labour team, said he expected the rival parties to conclude negotiations on a government platform and a division of cabinet portfolios within two to three days.

"I think it should be a very short, prompt negotiation... I believe that most of the questions can be solved in two or three days, no more than that," Shalev told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting.

The two leaders, whose parties have shared power in an uneasy coalition for the past four years, met for an hour before the cabinet session and discussed forming another broad-based coalition government after inconclusive elections last month.

Among the issues to be resolved are the commitments made to rightist and religious parties during the political manoeuvring over the formation of a government.

Shamir, whose Likud party won a slight edge over Labour in the elections, has said he will fulfil all commitments made to those who had vowed to support him.

Asked if Labour would join a "unity" government led by Shamir if Likud kept its promise to the Teliya party to build 40 new Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Shalev said: "In one word, no."

Shalev said the guidelines of a Likud-Labour coalition would be very similar to those of the present.

"There will be a possibility for political initiatives, equality in the division of the four main cabinet portfolios and a framework that will allow government action without one side forcing its opinion on the other."

In a unity cabinet Labour's Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin will retain his post and Peres will either stay on as foreign minister or become finance minister.

Gaza stages lightning strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Twelve Palestinians were wounded in the occupied territories Sunday during a spontaneous general strike in the Gaza Strip in protest at the killing of two Palestinians.

The Gaza Strip's 650,000 Palestinians stayed away from work and halted public transport in a strike that was unusual because it was not called in a leaflet issued last week by leader of the year-old Palestinian uprising.

Palestinians observed the strike to protest against the killing Saturday of teenage demonstrator and a detention camp prisoner who allegedly tried to stab an Israeli soldier.

Police and troops battled protesters who hurled stones and bottles in Gaza, the West Bank and Arab Jerusalem.

In Gaza, the army said two soldiers were injured in separate stoning incidents while on patrol. A third soldier lost control of his vehicle when it was stoned and injured himself.

Troops shot a Palestinian aged 18 in a protest that erupted when the army lifted a curfew on Gaza's Sha'ti refugee camp. The army reimposed the curfew, confining residents to their homes, and maintained curfews on some other Gaza camps.

West Bank hospitals said soldiers shot two Palestinians in Ilt village, one in Tulkarm camp, one in Nablus, one in nearby Kufir Jamal and one in Balata camp.

Among the scenes of violence was Arab Jerusalem where police

sprayed tear-gas at a junior high school for girls to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators, sending about two dozen female pupils fleeing down the street, witnesses said.

Seven girls aged 14 and 15 were treated briefly for beating injuries and two for inhaling tear-gas after the incident at the Al Rawda school, an official at nearby Mukassas hospital said.

The clashes came on a day designated in a leaflet by the underground leaders of the uprising as one for "unique escalation" against occupation.

The occupation authorities Sunday reopened 320 junior high schools in the West Bank which have been shut since Sept. 1.

News reports said classes were held at all but six schools in Hebron and Qalqilya which the army has turned into temporary bases.

Also Sunday, Arabs from the village of Ibtin launched a three-day general strike to mourn for the torching of their mosque Friday night.

Police suspect the fire was the work of Jewish extremists who were retaliating for a summer grenade attack in Haifa, Israeli reports said.

Ten of 13 suspects in connection with the Haifa attack are from Ibtin.

Dozens of Jewish and Arab public figures went to the village to express their solidarity after the fire Saturday. Police received a phone call from a Hebrew-speaker claiming responsibility just after the attack.

GCC focuses on post-war situation

BAHRAIN (R) — Foreign and finance ministers of six Arab Gulf states began talks in Bahrain Sunday on how to guarantee the security of their region after eight years of war between Iran and Iraq.

The ministers from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were preparing for the annual meeting of heads of state of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Dec. 19.

"We reiterate the importance of efforts by GCC states to strengthen security in the Gulf region after chances for peace emerged with the halt in the Iran-Iraq war," said Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

A U.N.-mediated ceasefire went into effect on Aug. 20 but subsequent peace talks between Tehran and Baghdad have made little progress.

The Bahraini minister said in his opening statement to the GCC ministers that the prime concern of the alliance's members was to develop their capabilities cooperatively.

"We hope the Iran-Iraq talks succeed and consolidate what we hope to secure, the stability of the region," said Sheikh Mohammad, whose country is the new GCC chairman.

The foreign ministers were also due to discuss the Palestinian issue and Lebanon's political crisis during their talks Sunday and Monday.

The Gulf states were expected to agree to call on other powers to support the Palestinian state declared last month by the Palestine National Council (PNC).

"We bless and support with all our determination and power the just struggle of the Palestinian people," Sheikh Mohammad said.

Polisario admits downing plane, apologises to U.S.

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Polisario guerrillas battling Morocco for independence of the Western Sahara said Sunday they shot down a U.S.-hired aircraft, killing all five American aid workers on board.

A statement from the headquarters of the Polisario Front apologised to Washington for the attack last Thursday which it said was a mistake it deeply regretted.

The communiqué issued in the name of Polisario's civilian wing, the self-styled Saharawi Arah democratic republic, promised that the bodies of the dead would be returned without delay.

"In the face of this tragic accident... the Saharawi government expresses its deep regrets to the international community and to the American people," the statement said.

It said its forces fired ground-to-air missiles at two DC-7 aircraft — hired to help combat the worst locust plague for more than 50 years — after they were sighted flying at low altitude.

Polisario said the two planes were confused with Moroccan C-130 military aircraft. It said the incident took place 27 kilometres from Moroccan defence lines at Gart Al Hemmer.

The second plane was hit, but managed to land safely in Morocco. All on board the first aircraft were killed.

"The shooting of one of the two planes was not premeditated. It is a mistake resulting from the pure coincidence of circumstances, in an area where conditions of war were prevailing at the time," the statement added.

The Algerian-backed Polisario

Front has been fighting Morocco for 13 years for control of the vast, largely barren former Spanish colony.

Polisario said it found the wreckage of the plane and was beginning to retrieve the bodies of the victims. It said the bodies would be returned to their families.

Polisario earlier denied that its units in the Western Sahara were involved in the attack.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Rudy Boone said officials would have no comment on the report until the Polisario statement could be verified.

The plane was brought down some 50 kilometres southeast of Smara, half-way between the Mauritanian border and the defensive perimeter Morocco built to defend against the rebels.

The second DC-7 managed to return to the airfield at Sidi Ifni, some 640 kilometres to the northwest. It landed safely with five other Americans on board.

The Moroccan government said Friday it was arranging military protection for U.S. officials trying to reach the crash site. A group of aviation experts flew Saturday from Washington to join the expedition to the crash site, in one of the most desolate areas of the Sahara Desert.

One of their missions was to

determine who fired the missile, an embassy source said.

The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) in Washington launched a criminal investigation Friday, looking for possible violations of U.S. law including one that deals with destruction of U.S. aircraft overseas.

It was the fifth plane shot down over the disputed territory since the Sahara war broke out in 1975. Previous incidents involved small French private aircraft.

Polisario said the latest incident should not stand in the way of good relations with Washington which it said it hoped would remain "friendly and trust-worthy."

The front said its forces were the target of constant bombing raids from Morocco and had reacted instinctively.

The pilot of the crippled plane said after landing: "I saw the right-hand engine of the first plane catch fire... it began to lose altitude and I saw its right wing breaking off."

Morocco controls four-fifths of the sparsely-populated Western Sahara, which covers some 240,000 square kilometres, but Polisario fighters are able to operate in narrow corridors between neighbouring Algeria and Mauritania.

Both sides have accepted in principle a U.N.-sponsored peace plan which envisages a referendum on integration with Morocco or independence, but many details remain to be settled.

Talks through United Nations intermediaries are to begin next week in Geneva.



The first Maghreb summit was hosted by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid on June 19, 1988. At the meeting (from left to right) Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, King Hassan II of Morocco, Benjedid, Mauritania President Maouya Sid Ahmad Ould Taya and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi agreed to work towards a loose federation and increased integration among their countries (Sygma photo)

Ibn Ali: Maghreb unity is a must

KUWAIT (R) — Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was quoted Sunday as saying unity between Maghreb countries was an economic necessity.

"If we as countries of the Arab Maghreb do not unite and strengthen ourselves and cooperate and show solidarity to the maximum, the day will come when we will lose even our head," he told the Kuwaiti daily Al Rai Al Aam.

Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania have agreed to work towards a loose federation and have in the past year reopened borders and eased restrictions on the transit of people and goods.

Ibn Ali praised Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, now visiting Tunisia in efforts to forge closer ties, as a personal friend and Arah nationalist.

"Unity is his biggest concern... he is in my opinion truly a sincere man. When you speak to him he speaks to you with logic and reason."

Since Ibn Ali took power in November, 1987 he has become one of Qadhafi's closest allies.

section with terrorist activities."

He added that Iranian authorities have in the past freed "large numbers of convicted terrorists and their sympathisers who have been reformed in prison."

Ardebili denied allegations of widespread human rights violations, including mass executions, made by Iranian opposition groups, the United Nations and the London-based Amnesty International human rights group.

Iran's president, Ali Khamenei, last week admitted there have been some executions, but said they involved people who had been convicted by Islamic tribunals for various crimes.

Iranian dissidents claimed the latest wave of executions began after Iran unconditionally accepted a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire in the eight-year-old war with Iraq following a string of battlefield defeats.

Iran said that Ardebili did not say how many prisoners would be released, but noted that all had been arrested "in connection with terrorist activities."

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Kabul says 43 killed in air raid blunder

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan authorities said Sunday 43 people were killed in what they called a mistaken air raid on the southern town of Kandahar.

Official Kabul Radio said Saturday 24 people had been killed and eight injured in the attack Thursday on northern Kandahar, capital of Kandahar province bordering Pakistan.

But the official Bakhtar news agency, monitored in Islamabad Sunday, said 34 civilians and nine soldiers were killed.

The planes came under machine-gun fire from Kandahar military detachments as they flew at a low altitude from the east, it said.

Kabul Radio said a government inquiry commission, headed by Vice-President Mohammad Rafiq, had found that the aircraft pilots bombed the area by mistake.

Parts of Kandahar have changed hands during the 10-year-old war between the Soviet-backed government forces and the Western-backed guerrillas.

Carbombs exploded in Kabul

A carbomb planted by Afghan rebels exploded in the centre of Kabul, injuring dozens of people and smashing windows in nearby homes, the Soviet TASS news agency said.

The agency said the device was detonated by "terrorists from Afghan counter-revolutionary organisations who penetrated into Kabul." The report said the injured were cut by splinters of flying glass.

TASS also quoted a military communiqué carried by Bakhtar as saying that the army had moved against rebel strongholds in northeastern Nangarhar province.

It said Afghan government troops had knocked out six arms depots, a radio station and an anti-aircraft gun in and near the provincial centre of Jalalabad. Last week, the agency said the rebels were advancing on the city.

TASS also said the government had inflicted heavy losses on the rebels in Kandahar.

Ardebili promises to free political detainees

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's chief justice, who several months ago publicly declared that captured rebels should be summarily executed, now says Tehran will pardon some political prisoners.

In an apparent move to counter allegations that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's fundamentalist regime has carried out mass executions since August, Ayatollah Abdul Karim Musavi Ardebili said Saturday the prisoners would be freed in February, when the country celebrates the 10th anniversary of its revolution.

"A number of prisoners will be freed after it is certain that they will not break the law afterward," Ardebili was quoted as telling a Tehran news conference by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

IRNA said that Ardebili did not say how many prisoners would be released, but noted that all had been arrested "in connection with terrorist activities."

He added that Iranian authorities have in the past freed "large numbers of convicted terrorists and their sympathisers who have been reformed in prison."

Ardebili denied allegations of widespread human rights violations, including mass executions, made by Iranian opposition groups, the United Nations and the London-based Amnesty International human rights group.

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Iran said that Ardebili did not say how many prisoners would be released, but noted that all had been arrested "in connection with terrorist activities."

Ardebili was quoted as saying that he had been convicted by Islamic tribunals for various crimes.

Israel uses 'kamikaze dogs' in Lebanon raid

By John Fullerton Reuters

BEIRUT — Palestinian fighters shot dead "kamikaze dogs" fitted with explosives to be detonated inside underground commando bunkers, after the animals were released during Israel's latest raid into Lebanon.

"It's highly original but rather cruel," a Western military attaché based in the Lebanese capital said.

Lebanese newspapers carried photographs at the weekend of at least two of the animals, nicknamed already by some Lebanese and Palestinians as "Israel's kamikaze," after the Japanese volunteers who flew one-way missions in World War II.

Both dogs were apparently Labradors, shot dead before they could complete their task during the Israeli assault last Friday against the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

Each animal was strapped into a harness, not unlike the webbing and pouches carried by an ordinary infantryman.

Instead of ammunition, grenades, rations and water, the dogs carried packages of high explosive and gas canisters.

A PFLP-GC spokesman said the dogs had been trained by the Israelis to enter tunnels dug into the Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut.

Using a remote-control device, Israeli handlers would blow up their dogs as they entered, the blast would bring down the roof and the gas force any survivors into the open, he said.

But three of the dogs were shot dead about 70 metres away from the tunnel entrances, said the spokesman. A fourth was killed 500 metres away.

An Israeli army spokesman refused to comment on reports of booby-trapped dogs being flown in with the soldiers.

Friday's raid was the deepest into Lebanon by Israeli troops since Israel's 1982 invasion, and Israel said it killed at least 20 fighters for the loss of a senior officer.

Palestinian and militia sources in the battlezone said

four Palestinians and five fighters of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) were killed and 11 wounded.

The PFLP-GC spokesman commented: "They (the dogs) had electronic devices strapped to their heads so the Israelis could control their movements by remote control."

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Saturday five dogs were used, and that one found after the battle was a Doberman.

But a Reuters correspondent said he saw what he believed to be a Labrador, apparently shot by the Palestinian defenders.

Dogs have been used in many military campaigns, usually as trackers, to sniff out explosive or carry messages.

The Soviets are believed to have trained booby-trapped dogs during World War II to run under German tanks and blow them up. In the Vietnam war, U.S. army handlers and their dogs led foot patrols to warn of possible ambushes, and dogs were also used to locate guerrilla tunnel complexes.

In Northern Ireland, British security forces use three types of dogs — which they term trackers, sniffers and snappers.

Bloodhounds track Irish nationalist guerrillas. The sniffers, often Labradors, locate explosives while snappers are alertness deployed at demonstrations.

Beirut's Al Safir newspaper in its coverage of Friday's raid said:

"The operation was apparently aimed at PFLP-GC positions on the hills... these positions were made up of three tunnels dug into the heart of the mountain."

"Enemy soldiers arrived at the entrance of one of the tunnels and sent four booby-trapped dogs to be blown up. The dogs attacked the guards who opened fire, killing them."

"Enemy troops blew up three dogs by remote control and the entrance of one of the tunnels collapsed, as well as a nearby house. The enemy thought they had succeeded and advanced towards the tunnels, but were taken by surprise by the fighters who opened fire and besieged the attacking force..."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Jordan hopes for European formula

(Continued from page 1)

Rifai described Jordanian-Palestinian relations as "at their best" following Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank. "There is a brotherly and constructive dialogue between us and the relations are very comfortable," he said. "Doubts and sensitivities have vanished and we are now dealing with each other as brothers."

Rifai said that during the King's visit to France, Amman and Paris will sign an agreement on economic cooperation. The agreement, he added, implies that a ministerial committee of both governments has to be formed to supervise all aspects of joint activities.

On the economic situation in Jordan, Rifai said the financial problem faced by Jordan "is simply attributable to Jordan's dependence on Arab aid as provided for by the Baghdad summit conference of 1978 for serving its external debts, which accumulated over the years until they became a bit less than the total Arab aid which we have not received."

"The Jordanian government, with its keen interest to maintain its credibility with all states and financial institutions and honour its commitments, has resorted to settle its foreign debt service through its own resources and reserves," he said. "This situation has led to a shortage in the foreign currency available for the Kingdom's reserves from both the private and public sectors. Therefore we have adopted a number of financial and monetary measures to increase the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves and to minimise using it."

In other words, Rifai said, "these measures are aimed at

reducing the deficit in the balances of trade and payments."

"The situation now is much more better and is now tending to stabilise."

He said positive results would come up within few months. "However, the start was good and in the right direction," he added.

He attributed the success of the new economic policies to the response and cooperation of the various sectors in Jordan.

Asked if Jordan is embarking on endeavours to clear the atmosphere between Syria and Egypt, Rifai said that King Hussein had always been keen to have inter-Arab relations as they should be and it is for this end that he pursues his efforts to strengthen Arab solidarity and to unite Arab ranks and to overcome differences.

King Hussein "will continue his efforts with all Arab brethren to remove any impurities in relations between any two Arab countries," he said.

On prospects for holding an Arab summit, Rifai said no date had been set for such a summit and if such a conference were to be convened then the restoration of Egypt to the Arab fold would be one of the major topics of its agenda.

Asked if there was a Jordanian project for achieving economic Arab integration, a subject which King Hussein has talked about repeatedly, Rifai said: "There is a Jordanian perception of such a project and it is natural to have economic integration among a group of Arab countries or among all Arab countries."

However, there are no details of such a project, but the important thing was to have this project endorsed by the Arab countries, a step that has been supported and blessed by the Arab countries concerned."

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Soviet rescue plane crashes

(Continued from page 1)

came despite a massive international and Soviet relief effort that is bringing doctors, medical supplies and heavy equipment such as cranes to the devastated area.

"If there were cranes, we could have saved 10 people," said a man in Leninakan, 88 kilometres northwest of Yerevan. He spoke on a videotape taken Wednesday and Thursday and obtained by the U.S. television network ABC.

Stella Gregorian, an U.S. student from Houston, Texas, said she was shocked to see poorly prepared rescuers trying to save people at a computer institute in Leninakan.

"They have no equipment with them. They just hand over a stone at a time," said Gregorian, who is studying at Yerevan University.

The complaints also reached Gorbachev.

"We need first and foremost machinery. We don't have enough powerful cranes," the TASS news agency quoted one man as shouting Saturday to Gorbachev in Leninakan.

The army daily Krasnaya Zvezda said two huge transport aircraft flew to West Germany to collect special heavy cranes. Officials said Saturday hundreds of cranes were being sent by road and air from other parts of the Soviet Union.

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

be southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Min./Max. temp. 8/16

Aqaba 12/22

Deserts 7/17

Jordan Valley 13/20

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Yusuf Smeirat 821311

Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 631522

Dr. Yusuf Sammour 615648

Dr. Mohammad Abu Mahfouz 793344

Fires pharmacy 661912

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Directorate 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 198, 891228

Blood Bank 773333

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 639141

Public Security Directorate

HOSPITALS

AKILAH MATERNITY, J. Amn. 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsan 6641714

Shamsan Hospital 669131

University Hospital 84545

Al-Musaber Hospital 6672279

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Mahajreen 77101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26

Army, Marja 89161/15

Queen Alla Hospital 6024050

Amal Hospital 674153

Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarga Hospital (09)991071

Al-Sina Hospital (09)986722

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Sls per kg.

Apple	500 / 400
Banana	350 / 300
Banana (Makhamma)	300 / 250
Beans	430 / 380
Cabbage	340 / 300
Carrots	280 / 240
Cauliflower	220 / 180
Cumbers	230 / 200
Dates	550 / 450
Eggplant (large)	130 / 90
Eggplant (small)	220 / 160
Garlic	300 / 250
Grapes	180 / 120
Lemon	220 / 180
Marrow (large)	100 / 70
Marrow (small)	150 / 100
Orange (French)	520 / 280
Orange (Shamouni)	520 / 260
Orange (local)	240 / 200
Onion (dry)	200 / 160
Pepper (red)	320 / 260
Pepper (sweet)	340 / 300
Potato	260 / 220
Spinach	150 / 100
Tomatoes	220 / 180
Tomatoes	350 / 300

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

13:30 Koran

13:50 Programme review

14:00 Football match

15:50 Children's programmes

18:00 News summary in Arabic

18:05 World News

18:15 Arabic series

19:10 Local programme

19:40 Programme review

20:

Communications project to be cut back

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan is cutting back a major telecommunications project as part of efforts to reduce its budget deficit. Planning Minister Taher Kanaan said Sunday.

He told Reuters in an interview: "We have decided to phase the telecommunications expansion over a longer period, perhaps seven or eight years instead of five, and to cut out some of the frills."

Spending on the project, originally set at about JD 100 million, would be cut to about JD 60 million.

The expansion plan, backed by a \$36-million World Bank loan, would provide switching and transmission equipment, satellite earth stations and computers as well as adding 220,000 telephone lines to Jordan's existing network.

Kanaan did not say which parts of the programme would be affected by the spending cuts, prompted by the need to slash the country's chronic budget and trade deficits.

He said the government was reviewing all projects in its 1988-1990 development plan to decide which could wait. But he indicated that plans to build the Al Wabdhah Dam on the Syrian border would proceed.

Kanaan said the government, due to unveil its calendar 1989 budget this month, would cut current expenditure more heavily than capital spending.

"Expenditure related to domestic sources (of funds) will be preferred over that related to foreign sources," he said.

The 1988 budget forecast current spending at JD 624 million and capital spending at JD 305

million, plus JD 146 million for development projects to be funded by foreign or domestic loans.

Preliminary Central Bank figures show actual overall spending of JD 455 million outstripped revenue by JD 18 million in the first six months of the year.

Kanaan said he hoped government action to deregulate industrial licensing procedures, restrict imports of luxury goods and float interest rates and the dinar would help to cut the balance of payments and budget deficits.

"The country was living beyond its means both at the general national level and at the individual level of conspicuous consumption," he said.

"Employment is now my main worry. There is a significant level of unemployment, especially among educated segments and newly-graduated people."

Kanaan said Jordan actually had more jobs than job-seekers but Jordanians were not prepared to accept the type of jobs now filled by more than 150,000 foreigners.

"Unemployment is estimated to affect at least 50,000 to 60,000 people," he said. "One effect (of the economic situation) will be to influence people's attitude to work and this is a healthy tendency."

Jordan has a workforce of around 885,000, of whom about 330,000 work abroad, 85 per cent of them in Arab Gulf countries.

Answering questions, Kanaan said: "The government has taken a number of measures which in themselves appear to have caused concern and worry..."

"But they should be a reason for assurance that the government is taking action to correct economic imbalance."



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday opens a charity bazaar organised by Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped at the Amman Marriott Hotel. Also present is Her Royal Highness Princess Majida Ra'd (Petra photo)

Al Hussein society organises bazaar

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 18 Arab and foreign countries, as well as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have organised a charity bazaar to benefit programmes carried out by the Al Hussein Society for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped in Jordan.

The bazaar, the sixth of its kind in the country, was opened at the Amman Marriott Hotel by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma

who is chairperson of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund. On display for sale is a variety of Christmas decorations, gift items, foods, clothing, handicrafts, embroideries, leather products, cosmetics and domestic appliances.

Several members of the diplomatic corps in Jordan and representative of the foreign and Arab communities in the country were present at the opening ceremony.

The society, which was established in 1979, cares for severely handicapped children by providing treatment, physiotherapy sessions, and vocational training such as dress making, carpentry, typing, radio and television repair and other skills.

The society, through its rehabilitation work, aims at enabling each handicapped child to be integrated into the community with a sense of purpose and dedication along with a degree of independence.

Ajlouni urges hotels, agencies to prepare plan for internal tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni Sunday called on all hotel directors in Aqaba and travel and tourist office directors to prepare special programmes for internal tourism in seasons other than those of festivals, to encourage Jordanians to visit Aqaba.

During a meeting of directors of Aqaba hotels, chaired by Ajlouni, participants discussed specifications and classifications in line with those of International hotel and formed a special committee, which will be charged with reporting on shortcomings in the hotels and working towards

improving their standards.

Ajlouni also talked about means to upgrade the tourism industry, as a foreign currency earning industry and outlined the importance of Aqaba region as a major centre for the Jordanian industry.

Seminar discusses human resources employed in science and technology

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Delegates to a five-day seminar on management and development of scientific and technological research centres, Sunday studied a working paper presented by Dr. Victor Billeh from Yarmouk University. The paper dealt with human resources employed in the field of science and technology. The delegates also discussed

proposed budgets and projects in scientific research, presented by an accountant at the University of Jordan, and a paper dealing with management of equipment installed at research centres in the Arab World. The paper was presented to the meeting by Dr. Mohammad Rifal from the Amman-based Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences.

Another paper dealt with a proposal for setting up a "green belt" in Arab states in North Africa.

The conference, which was opened here Saturday with the participation of delegates from 17 Arab states, was organised by the regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

GUVS, EC and Ministry of Agriculture help market West Bank, Gaza produce

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and the European Community (EC) are currently cooperating with the Ministry of Agriculture to help market the agricultural products of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip; and it is hoped that a defined policy on this subject will be worked out by the three parties before the end of this year. Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said in an interview published in Sawt Al Shaah Arabic daily.



Marwan Hmoud

He said that GUVS local the EC has most recently arranged for citrus fruit from the occupied lands to be exported to European markets.

Referring to the olive oil produced in the West Bank, he said, Jordan will not import olive oil from any source since this year's production was sufficient for the country's needs.

He said last year the Kingdom imported 2,000 tonnes of olive oil from different sources when there was a shortage of this commodity, but this year and probably the coming years there will not be any need for olive oil imports as the vast areas of land have been planted with olives.

Olive oil from the occupied territories, like other products, will be dealt with in cooperation with the EC and the GUVS to help the farmers sell their products in world markets, the minister noted.

He said in the meantime visitors and citizens crossing into Jordan will be allowed to bring in one 20-litre container of olive oil and a similar container full of olives from the West Bank as gifts, or for their own use.

Local production

Referring to local agricultural production, the minister said the Kingdom was expected to require additional amounts of food supplies in the coming 10 years, a fact that is not matched by extra production.

He said Jordan produces sufficient amounts of vegetables and fruit for local consumption and exports, but does not produce sufficient wheat, barley and lean meat to meet the local markets'

demands. Last year, the minister noted, Jordan produced 70,000 tonnes of wheat compared to 16,000 tonnes of the same commodity in the previous season.

"This year, farmlands are expected to increase wheat and corn production in view of the continued vertical and horizontal expansion in farming in Jordan which needs nearly 500,000 tonnes of wheat to feed the population," the minister noted.

He said crops such as potatoes and onions are now abundantly produced while apples, which Jordan has been importing from other countries, are now being produced in considerable quantities. "Probably in three years from now Jordan will be exporting apples."

Marketing

With regards to marketing of Jordanian crops, Hmoud said, the country was facing difficulties because of strong competition on world markets on the one hand, and the increasing cost of input on the other.

Countries such as Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iraq have stopped buying certain types of Jordanian crops, and the cost of planting, harvesting and the employment of non-Jordanian nationals to work on the land are making it more and more difficult for farmers to market their crops in other countries, the minister noted.

W. Bank students to take Tawjihi exams on time

AMMAN (Agencies) — The Ministry of Education announced Sunday that students in the occupied West Bank schools will take the General Secondary School Certificate (Tawjihi) examinations one time at the end of the current 1988-1989 school year.

School in the two banks normally prepare their students for two-session examinations at the Tawjihi level, once at the end of the first term, which this year falls by the end of this month, and the second in June.

Last year, Tawjihi students in the West Bank took only the first session, and the results were considered for both terms in view of the prevailing situation in the occupied territory.

Schools in the occupied lands

have been closed for more than one year and the students were reported taking lessons in churches, mosques and private homes, or in the fields to make up for the lack of proper training in classes.

Universities also have been closed by the Israeli authorities, and some West Bank students were forced to continue their studies in Jordanian universities on the East Bank.

Tawjihi students in the East Bank will sit for examinations on Dec. 27, a date set by the Ministry of Education at the end of the first term, and will sit for the second session early in June 1989.

Nearly 13,000 students will

have to take this exam before they can qualify to get their certificates.

Jordanian Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi decided in July to award official high school certificates to West Bank students who had been prevented by the uprising from sitting final examinations.

Results of the mid-year examinations, taken by 12,908 students last January, were counted as final grades.

Ministry, World Bank team inspect education in Ma'an

MA'AN (Petra, J.T.) — A team from the World Bank and the Ministry of Education Sunday visited Ma'an Governorate and inspected the education situation there.

The team met with teachers and education officials and learnt about educational problems encountered at schools and needs for laboratories, libraries and playgrounds for children, to carry out extra curricular activities.

They also learnt about the number and nature of training courses and seminars attended by teachers now employed in Ma'an Governorate schools, and discussed

means of upgrading the teachers' skills and proficiency. The team later toured a number of schools outside Ma'an city and met with teachers and school supervisors.

Earlier, the World Bank team visited the Ministry of Education's warehouses and schools in the Amman region which were built with financing from the World Bank.

The World Bank is financing the Ministry of Education's school building programmes in various governorates.

The Ministry of Education announced in May that it has

adopted a plan for setting up school buildings on purchased plots of land in accordance with resolutions adopted at the first educational conference last year. The new schools will help the ministry to dispose off the rented buildings and the present two-shift school system.

At present 176 buildings are being set up in different regions. Of these half would be operational early 1989, according to ministry officials. They said that these schools, which are being built with loans from the World Bank, will be completed within the 1988-1994 plan.

Haj Hassan in Cairo for talks on Arab Maritime Bridge Company

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khalid Haj Hassan arrived in Cairo Sunday to take part in meetings of the Arab Maritime Bridge Company which start here Monday.

lion from its current capital of JD 6 million. The meeting will also approve the operation budget for the year 1989.

Administrative issues, including the development of the company's activities, will also be reviewed.

Haj Hassan noted that the company was a practical model for Arab cooperation. Taking part in the meetings are ministers of transport from Iraq, Egypt and Jordan.



Khalid Al Haj Hassan

Kanaan receives Canadian group

AMMAN (Petra) — Supply Minister Abdul Salam Kanaan Sunday received Canadian Ambassador to Jordan Michael Bell and a trade delegation representing Canadian food industries and briefed them on the ministry's policy for providing high

quality basic commodities at reasonable prices and on the government's subsidy policy.

Kanaan also briefed the delegation on the ministry's policy regarding prices of locally-produced items and imported goods, saying that the policy aims to

achieve balance between the interests of importers, producers and consumers.

Kanaan also explained the government's plans and general trend to increase local production in various fields with a view to curbing imports.

Ministry aide stresses importance of culture

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — Ministry of Labour Secretary General Saleh Khasawneh Sunday stressed the importance of population culture and the attention the ministry directs to it, in view of its direct relation with the various aspects of life.

Addressing a week-long course on population culture, held at the Maaddi Social Development Centre for working women from

the Jordan Valley, Khasawneh said that the course derives its importance from the fact that it is held for working women in the Jordan Valley, which is one of the most important development areas throughout Jordan.

The course is organised by Maaddi Social Development Centre in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations Fund

for Population Activities.

Also addressing the course was director of the ministry's Culture department Mahmoud Al Tal who outlined the importance of the course, saying that culture is the basis for the labourer's awareness and that it helps them to conceive their national duties within the framework of the comprehensive development process.

Abu Leban wins 1st prize in contest for young artists at Spanish centre

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre this week are all the entries submitted for the first painting competition the centre has held for young artists between the ages of 18 and 26.

While the overall standard of the entries was relatively low there were several excellent works submitted that made the final choice for the first three prizes a demanding task for the panel of eight judges.

It was the oil painting by Ghasan Abu Leban that finally took the first prize — a return air ticket to Madrid on Iberian Airlines and a diploma from the centre.

A former student of Fine Arts at the Yarmouk University, Abu Leban's work shows in his impressionistic image of life in one of Jordan's camps, the influence of his tutor, Aziz Ammoura. Catching the pale luminosity of the small square concrete houses in many subtle shades of white, Abu Leban brings the scene to life with just two figures emerging from one of the many winding alleys that characterise the organic growth of these townships.

The strength of the painting however lies in two facts. First in the well worked surface which in

its creamy texture maintains the impression of the brush that at once gives an idea of spontaneity with a polished professional finish, the other is a strong sense of calm, the kind of peace that is felt in that hour before a winter sunset.

ART REVIEW

Second prize went to Anas Ibrahim Al Sheikh, a Bahraini student studying at University of Jordan. This interesting and extremely well executed oil does not have the initial instant appeal that the work of Abu Leban carries, but its dark image of a traditionally dressed woman surrounded by both familiar and unfamiliar symbols, holds the attention and slowly beguiles the viewer into a deeper study of its details.

Cleverly and simply caught in brushstrokes of rich colour, the torso of the woman is touched with some of the symbols that fill the rest of the canvas, as if the artist himself has made a scientific study of her proportions labelling her anatomy while silhouetting her in a perfect square of the deepest blue which is hardly distinguishable from the rich black of the background. A subtle and intellectual piece.

It will be interesting to see how this talented young artist progresses in the future. Mr. Sheikh wins an easel and an artist's set of oil paints from Istiklal Bookshop as well as a diploma from the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Both first and second prize winners have also been invited to exhibit their work jointly at the Centre next year.

Of the two print-like works submitted by Mohammad Nasrallah, it was the brown sepia drawing of a sleeping girl that won the third prize. With areas of untouched paper acting against the grainy two dimensional texture of the rest of the image this drawing of calm amidst carnage proved an evocative and quietly stirring piece.

Mr. Nasrallah receives a box of one hundred slides of the work on display at the Museum of Modern Art in Madrid, as well as a diploma from the Spanish Cultural Centre.

A special runner up prize was awarded to Arafat Al Na'im for his stark study of a face that seemed to be pulled into shape with large strokes of the knife. Easing out its rough shape in muddy hues against soft turquoise the image carried a disturbing reality. Finally in fifth place was an attractive and well painted landscape by Adeeb Aunuan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shomaa Foundation in which more than 69 paintings are on display.
- ★ An art exhibition by Iraqi artist Latif Itawi at Al Wasiti Gallery for plastic art.
- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Barwin Al Sarraf at Petra Bank Hall.
- ★ The Moldavian public art exhibition, which includes handicrafts, embroideries, and costumes representing the Moldavian folklore, at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of posters that show the dangers of AIDS at Al Raed Al Arabi School.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "Ya 'Antar" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture on worshipping God by Dr. Fuad Hassan Zakariya at the Biology Auditorium, the University of Jordan — 12:00 noon.

FILM

- ★ A French film entitled "Muriel" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

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Human bonds

THERE is no man or woman on earth and there is no people or nation in the world that has not shed tears and mourned the victims of the devastating earthquake that has hit the Soviet Republic of Armenia.

The catastrophe that has befallen that area and its people is one of the highest this century. With the dead in Leninakan, Kirovakan and Spitak in the wake of the tremor estimated to be in tens of thousands, mankind's heart must have bled from sorrow and grief. This is the kind of natural disaster in front of which the international community feels helpless. Unfortunately the science of predicting seismic tremors has yet to develop to the extent that would allow the evacuation of residents from urban areas threatened by them before they happen. If only man's ingenuity could be mobilised to the science of seismology in a more concerted way such natural disasters need not cause such apocalyptic results as we have now in Armenia.

The best condolences that the peoples and nations of the world can offer the Armenian people in their unbearable grief and suffering is to help the international effort to rescue the people who are still under the ruins and to offer swift aid and support to the on-going campaigns aimed at sheltering the rest of the Armenian community from the harsh environmental conditions prevailing now in the aftermath of the tremor.

The massive aid effort already underway by the whole world proves beyond a shadow of doubt that human bonds between the peoples of our planet becomes all the more clearer in dire circumstances and in tragedies as the one that touched the Armenian people in the Soviet Union.

As the aid and technical support continues to pour in the Republic of Armenia from all corners of the world, humanity can breathe a little easier now that we know that compassion and solidarity between the peoples of the world is still there and alive and all that it awaits is consolidation.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday reflected on King Hussein's statement to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in which the King discussed Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and the question of peace in the Middle East. The King has reiterated that Jordan will never abandon the Palestinian people and will continue efforts to convene an international conference to achieve peace that would secure their rights and their land. Al Ra'i noted. It said that the King in his interview with the BBC warned that a just solution for the Middle East problem is essential in view of the current explosive situation that threatens world peace. The King did not call only on the world community alone to help in the peace process, but he also urged Arab states to strengthen their stand through the formation of economic groupings and through continued preparedness which will give them the initiative in any bid to regain their usurped rights, the paper noted. It said that the King chose to issue these statements as the Palestinian uprising was entering its second year, thus lending further backing for the oppressed people in their just struggle.

A guest columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday comments on the government's economic measures concerning the ban on imports of luxury goods. Dr. Khalil Al Sayyid says these measures will have very great beneficial results on the national economy as a whole since they will encourage local industries to flourish and to sell products abroad to earn badly needed hard currency to finance Jordanian development schemes. The writer says that industrialists should not raise the price of their manufactured goods because of what they claim high prices of raw materials they buy from other countries. He adds, local manufactured products are sure to find buyers, and must not be of high value so that they can compete with products by other manufacturers. The writer also advises Jordanian manufacturers to arrange for their products to sell at competitive prices abroad if they want to ensure continued sales and make profits in hard currency.

Al Dustour daily commented on the Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands which now entered a second year. The uprising is a popular revolution that has been strengthened by blood and the determination of the oppressed people to attain freedom, the paper notes. The uprising has helped to enhance the Palestinian identity and succeed in unifying all factions of the Palestinian people behind the common cause of ridding the country from the invaders, the paper added. It said that the uprising has rekindled hopes among millions of Arabs and succeeded in attracting the attention of the world community. Jordan for its part has foreseen these developments, and from the very start worked out plans to give the Palestinians and the PLO a free hand in the struggle for regaining the oppressed people's rights; and has never faltered in its stand and in the support of the Palestinian people at all diplomatic levels, the paper pointed out. It said that Jordan is determined to extend its unlimited backing for the Palestinian revolution on all fronts.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights coincides with the uprising in the occupied Arab territories of Palestine. The anniversary comes at a time when the world watches injustice and criminal actions and aggression being exercised on the Arab people by Israel, and witnesses a people fighting for their freedom and their rights, the paper noted. It said that at the same time the anniversary this year comes when the Palestinian people's cause enjoys the attention and sympathy of most nations of the world. The world witnesses Israel's rejection of peace based on justice and hears the loud cries of the Palestinian people for justice and for peace, the paper added. It said that it is time for the world community to take serious steps to put things right and to make justice and peace prevail.

Misguided political decision

By Waleed Sadi

WHEN U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz refused last week to grant PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat an entry visa to the U.S. to address the United Nations General Assembly session on Palestine, he cited federal U.S. laws to buttress his allegations that Arafat can be lawfully prevented from stepping on New York soil. Although the transfer of the U.N. debate on the Palestine question from New York to Geneva has rendered this so-called legal issue moot for the time being, the fact that such a dispute may repeatedly arise would make it a rather pressing problem that calls for a closer scrutiny.

As a starter it is useful to recall the relevant sections of the 1947 U.N. headquarters agreement between the U.S. and the United Nations. Article Four Section 11 of the said agreement states the following: "The federal, state or local authorities of the U.S. shall not impose any impediments to transit to or from the headquarters district of representatives of members or officials of the United Nations, or... representatives of non-governmental organisations recognised by the United Nations. Section 12 of Article 4 of the agreement prescribes that "the provisions of Section 11 shall be applicable irrespective of the relations existing between the governments of the persons referred to in that section and the government of the United States." Section 13 of the same article of the agreement reads as follows: "(a) Laws and regulations in force in the United States regarding the entry of aliens shall not be applied in such a manner as to interfere with the privileges referred to in Section 11. When visas are required for persons referred to in that section, they shall be granted without charge

and as promptly as possible."

It is clear therefore that Arafat, as a representative of an organisation enjoying the status of observer at the United Nations comes within the purview of Section 11 of Article 4 of the headquarters agreement. Accordingly on the strength of the headquarters agreement, the chairman of the PLO or any other representative of the PLO may not be impeded to transit to and from the United Nations headquarters in New York. It is also clear from reading the above-mentioned sections of the agreement that there are no reference in them to any criteria for granting entry visas to the U.S. to representatives of organisations recognised by the U.N. other than those expressly outlined in the agreement.

In other words, whether Arafat's organisation record has a clean bill of the health or not is not an issue as far as the salient provisions of the agreement are concerned.

The problem, however, arises upon reading Annex 2, Section 6 of U.S. Public Law 80-357 which the U.S. Congress enacted on the occasion of approving the headquarters agreement with a view to retaining the U.S. right to bar the travel of foreign visitors to the United Nations on national security grounds. Specifically speaking, the said section stipulates the following: "Nothing in the agreement (between the U.S. and the U.N.) shall be construed as in any way diminishing, abridging or weakening the right of the United States to safeguard its own security and completely to control the entrance of aliens into any territory of the United States other than the headquarters district and its

immediate vicinity... and any such areas as it is reasonably necessary to traverse in transit between the same and foreign countries."

The catching words in this rider are related to the national security of the U.S. In the final analysis the U.S. government has to establish in a court of law that the denial of Arafat's visa is related to the national security of the United States should this issue ever come up for adjudication. It would be indeed farfetched that a visit by Arafat to the United Nations headquarters and its proximate vicinity could conceivably threaten the national security of the United States. No matter what one may think of Arafat and his organisation it could never be reasonably concluded that his presence on the soil of New York City under the iron clad surveillance of state and federal security personnel could pose a real threat to the national security of some sort to States. Arafat would have to be a superman under the practical endanger the security of the United States under the practical circumstances surrounding any such visit. The U.S. government can under the provisions of this rider have a complete control over the entrance of foreigners into any territory of the U.S. other than the headquarters district and its immediate vicinity. But as Arafat never asked for travel permit that would take him outside the vicinity of the U.N. headquarters, it would be groundless to deny him his entry visa to address the U.N. General Assembly.

To sum up, this Shultz decision to deny Arafat an entry visa to address the United Nations General Assembly is totally untenable legally. Obviously the grounds for this decision are political through and through, and misguided at that.

Israeli attack aimed at sabotaging PLO peace bid

By John Fullerton
Reuters

BEIRUT — Israel's airborne assault near Beirut Friday was widely seen in Lebanon as a move to embarrass Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and to show Israel would maintain its active role in the country.

Palestinian and Lebanese observers believe these were among the aims that prompted the attack, one of the biggest since Israel's 1982 invasion of the country.

"It seems to have had little directly to do with military matters," said a Lebanese politician. "But it did have foreign policy objectives."

In Israel, there was no immediate official explanation why Israel intervened on the ground deep inside Lebanon instead of the south, where it holds a so-called security zone to guard against resistance fighters' infiltration of its northern border.

But the attack by helicopter-borne commandos on Palestinian fighters in Lebanon's Druze-held Shouf Mountains coincided with the first anniversary of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It was largely the uprising — in which at least 330 Palestinians have died — which led Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Arafat to proclaim a Palestinian state and implicitly recognise Israel.

Israeli leaders have said Arafat did not go far enough last month, and that his verbal undertaking was a "publicity stunt."

Some Palestinians say Arafat

has already given too much.

"Arafat has made concession after concession," said one Marxist Palestinian. "So far he hasn't got much out of it from Israel and its American allies."

He added: "The latest Israeli raid is a message that the game hasn't changed and that the Palestinians who matter are the radicals prepared to fight compromise."

The main target was the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

Others were reported to be bases used by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a Marxist group led by Nayef Hawatme who generally supports Arafat, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

The Damascus-based PFLP has forged a rapport with Arafat but its leader, George Habash, plays an important role in restraining the PLO's increasingly moderate thrust.

The PFLP-GC has denounced Arafat's conciliatory stance, and is pledged to win back Palestine by destroying Israel.

It launched a daring hang-glider raid on Israel in November last year. A lone fighter killed six Israeli soldiers before gunned down.

Very few Palestinian fighters manage to reach Israel, which is protected by a Lebanese militia, several hundred Israelis in Lebanon itself as well as high-tech defences along the frontier.

"If a serious Palestinian military threat to Israel from Lebanon really exists, then it's Arafat's mainstream Fatah and the DFLP

— not small splinter groups," said a diplomat based in Beirut.

Israel has given the radicals a shot in the arm," he said.

There are about 300,000 Palestinians in Lebanon, mostly refugees in southern camps where Arafat has the upper hand.

Palestinian and Lebanese political observers also saw Friday's raid — the 26th on Lebanon this year — as a challenge to the Syrian role in Lebanon.

Syrian troops are stationed in the Shouf hills, along the nearby coastal highway and on the southern edge of Beirut — all well within rifle range of Friday's battezone.

There was also an important Lebanese dimension to Friday's attack, local observers said.

Many rightwing Christians see Israel as a natural ally, and for them Friday's raid represented a welcome sign that Israel was not limiting its interest to the southern border area.

There were fears among hard-line Christians opposed to Syrian influence that last month's Israeli general election would limit active Israeli involvement in Lebanese affairs.

Neither the rightwing Likud nor the Labour Party won an outright majority, and the prospect of a new coalition government was not welcomed by some Christian right-wingers.

"Coalition would be the worst possible outcome," a Christian militia commander said before the poll. "Israel is the one constant factor in this region and passive introspection on its part would not serve our interests at all."

Israel fights Palestinian revolt on military, diplomatic fronts

By Gail Fitzer
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A year to the day after the first stone was thrown by Palestinian militants, Israel is fighting military and diplomatic battles to crush the revolt in the occupied Arab territories and limit damage to its international standing.

It has not been very successful on either front, Israeli analysts say.

Since Palestinians launched their unprecedented revolt with a mass protest in the Jabalya refugee camp of the occupied Gaza Strip last Dec. 9, Israeli leaders have repeatedly vowed to quell the violence.

A year later, and after the deaths of at least 330 Arabs and 11 Jews, the wounding of more than 10,000 protesters and the detention of 20,000 in the Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank, the uprising goes on.

"It is one of the toughest confrontations I have known throughout my long security experience," Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a former army chief of staff, said Thursday.

He acknowledged Palestinians won international sympathy and increased world recognition of their cause with the revolt.

Retired Brigadier-General Amos Gilboa, former adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Arab affairs, told reporters: "We are very weak in the sphere of propaganda, we are always reacting, not initiating."

Palestinian militants in the territories not only challenged Israeli rule — they also spurred on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to score important diplomatic gains.

The Palestine National Council (PNC) last month declared an independent Palestinian state and accepted U.N. resolutions implying recognition of Israel's right to exist.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat issued a joint statement with a group of five American Jewish peace campaigners Wednesday accepting Israel's right to exist and condemning terrorism.

Deputy foreign ministry spokesman Motti Amichai said Israel's world political status did not suffer during the first 11 months of the uprising despite widespread international condemnation of the army's handling of the revolt.

But he said the PNC meeting in Algiers on Nov. 20 was a turning point.

"Until now I think we succeeded in transmitting to the decision-makers in the Western world our preoccupation and the gravity of the security problems of Israel."

"Because of the way the PNC declarations were interpreted in Western capitals, this task is beginning to be more difficult now and this is probably the biggest task we have before us in the near future," Amichai said.

Israeli leaders rejected PLO acceptance of Israel as a "publicity stunt" and a ploy to destroy the Jewish state but several European countries praised Arafat. The Israelis were particularly incensed by the way Sweden gave a welcome usually reserved for heads of state this week but the United States, Israel's closest ally, said the PLO "sit" had a considerable way to go.

Israeli analysts say the PLO declarations are aimed at

Washington, which has said it will only talk to the PLO when it recognises Israel, stops terrorism and accepts U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The uprising has pushed Israelis to the right, Israeli analysts say. The result was a slight edge for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud, far-right and religious parties in Nov. 1 elections.

Amichai said Israelis were initially shocked by the outbreak of the revolt and may have sympathised with the 1.7 million Palestinians struggling against occupation.

When the protests grew more violent and underground Palestinian leaders issued militant declarations, Israelis began to regard the revolt as a threat to their existence.

"It is easier to identify them now as the enemy who wants to take-over and no longer as poor refugees trying to get rid of military control," Amichai said.

The Israeli army has had a hard time dealing with the uprising. But commentators say soldiers have grown accustomed to their daily tasks of suppressing protests with beatings, teargas, and bullets.

Chief foreign ministry spokesman Alon Liel said the suffering to both peoples caused by the uprising was "creating deep scars which are not helping the process of peace in the region."

Government press office director Yoram Ettinger expressed concern that the uprising was spilling over from the occupied territories with Arab citizens in Israel itself taking part in protests and strikes.

If these four have committed treason, so have I

On Thursday a South African court sentenced four African nationalist leaders to prison terms ranging from six to 12 years. Tom Mantsata was sentenced to six years. Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu wrote the following article before the verdict.

CAPE TOWN — On Nov. 18, Tom Mantsata and three leaders of the United Democratic Front, a coalition of anti-apartheid organisations, were convicted in Pretoria of treason. I was a patron of the UDF in its early years. I was named in the trial as an undisciplined co-conspirator, and I followed the evidence as closely as I could. If these four men have committed treason, then I have committed treason and should face charges as well.

In 1984, when I was general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, we heard that tension was rising in the

black townships of the Vaal Triangle, south of Johannesburg. The area includes Sharpeville, the place whose name has become synonymous with the killing of black South Africans by police in 1960. In 1984, township residents adopted a nonviolent form of protest by embarking on a boycott of house rents payable to the local authority.

The person I sent to find out what was happening was Tom Mantsata, a senior employee of the council. He was a highly responsible and trusted member of my staff who had the credibility and sensitivity necessary to bring a rational, calming influence to bear on the situation. He reported back to me and, soon after that, joined his colleagues on a spiritual retreat for the council staff.

While on retreat, we heard that trouble had flared up. When we

go on retreat, it is a strict rule that we withdraw temporarily from everyday activities to have time with God. But I was very concerned at the possibility of violence and maybe breaking out. I felt the situation to be so serious that I asked Tom to return to the Vaal to see what we could do to help. The result has been that Tom will now be appearing in a Pretoria courtroom, facing the prospect of a heavy sentence for treason. (The maximum for treason is death).

Among those also due to be sentenced are Popo Molefe, Moss Chikane and Patrick "Terror" Lekota — so nicknamed for his soccer skills.

The judge convicted the four after finding that "the dominant part" of the UDF leadership acted as the internal wing of the African National Congress, which conducts a political and

military struggle against the government. He said of the UDF: "It was bent on the downfall of the South African government... The UDF did not openly and directly advocate violence... It created a mass organisation of intertwined affiliates which could be called into action when the time was ripe. The expressed purpose of the UDF's propaganda campaign was to politicise the masses by harping on their grievances in order to mobilise and organise them against the government. Fomenting resentment and hatred against the government and its institutions was an integral component thereof."

I do not know whether the court decided the law correctly when it upheld the charge of treason. What I do know is that some of the court's language looks to me like an extravagantly painted portrayal of what would

be normal political processes in a society that was democratic. What I also know is that I have a very high regard for those guilty of treason. If there is one person in South Africa for whom I would unhesitatingly put my head on a block, it is Tom Mantsata.

Tom is a person who, after being tortured while in police custody, after spending more than 200 days detained without trial, after being in "preventive detention" for nearly a year, came out of prison to say to his friends in the council: "Let's not be consumed by bitterness."

The case has brought South African law into question in the black community. What is particularly worrying is that the convictions were made on the basis of the Roman-Dutch common law of our country.

When Steve Biko's comrades were put on trial in the mid-1970s

under what was then called the Terrorism Act, we at least knew that they were convicted under a law created by the Nationalist Party to keep itself in power. To have the UDF's opposition to apartheid branded "treason" under common law is altogether more serious. It brings the very concept of law into disrepute among black South Africans more than ever before.

I pray that if those on trial are now sentenced to prison, they will be able to appeal and will be released on bail pending further hearings.

Whatever happens, I will campaign as I have never campaigned before until they are released. For whether or not the law was properly applied, the effect of this judgment will be to discourage people from peaceful opposition on the basis that "we may as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb." — The New York Times.

Walls and guns keep Serbs and Albanians apart

By Vjekoslav Radovic
Reuters

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — In Yugoslavia's troubled Kosovo province, ethnic Albanians living behind high walls and Serbs patrolling their villages with guns keep each other at bay.

This area of fertile plains and rolling hills in the southeast of the country next to Albania is deadlocked in ethnic rivalry.

"We should stop this nonsense and get everyone to live in harmony as our elders taught us," said Isa Berisa, an ethnic Albanian student, after recent protests in the Kosovo capital Pristina.

The two groups have lived beside each other for more than 1,000 years, but are far apart in

language, culture, customs, and religion. The Serbs, a minority in the province, are Slavic-speaking orthodox Christians. The ethnic Albanians are mainly Muslims.

"A real peace has never reigned here, just an uneasy calm," said Darinka Jevric, a Serbian poet from Kosovo.

Thick, high walls surround Albanian homesteads and dot the picturesque Kosovo countryside. Serbs organise vigilante groups because they say they have to protect their farms against ethnic Albanians whom they accuse of theft or vandalism.

Kosovo, an autonomous part of Yugoslavia's biggest republic, Serbia, is inhabited by 1.7 million ethnic Albanians and 200,000 Serbs and Montenegrins, and has

long been seen as a powderkeg. In 1968 and 1981, Kosovo was hit by civil unrest rooted in the clash between growing Albanian nationalism and resurgent Serbian nationalism. Martial law was imposed briefly in 1981.

Thousands of Albanian youths have been jailed for nationalist agitation since 1981.

Several hundred thousand took to the streets in Pristina in November to protest against the removal of Azem Vllasi and Kacusa Jasari, ethnic Albanian Communist Party leaders in Kosovo, who were accused by the Serbs of encouraging nationalism.

These protests, which were brought to a halt by a ban on demonstrations in Kosovo, followed

months of protests by Serbs, publicly vilifying the Kosovo Albanians and threatening to take up arms against them.

On Monday, said Tanjug News Agency, the 95-member provincial party committee turned down the reinstatement of Jasari and Vllasi. Tanjug said the meeting had been "marked by the greatest rift along nationality lines among members of Kosovo's highest party forum so far."

The tension in the province is exacerbated by social problems caused by an economic crisis and 236 per cent inflation.

Ethnic mistrust and differences are visible everywhere.

Serbian and Albanian youths stroll down different sides of Pristina's main street.

Pristina's two newspapers, the Albanian-language Rilindja (Rebirth) and the Serbian-language Jedinstvo (Unity), voice diametrically opposed views on most issues.

Serbs and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo institutions are just as divided along ethnic lines and accuse each other of nationalism. "They all claim there is only one truth, but each see it in their own way," a Western visitor said.

On a recent cold November evening, columns of Serbian and Albanian protesters crossed paths in the Pristina suburb of Kosov Polje.

Albanians shouted slogans supporting Vllasi and Jasari. Serbs demanded more sackings and praised the populist Serbian

Communist Party chief Slobodan Milosevic.

Both groups marched with pictures of the late President Josip Broz Tito.

"Tito's name has become an alibi for everyone. People with diametrically opposed views, from rival soccer hooligans to top politicians, try to hide behind it," said a Serb activist.

Pristina, with 200,000 people, is a city of contrasts. While most people live in poverty and squalor, luxurious modern government and bank buildings dominate the skyline.

Some local leaders live castle-like houses in plush suburbs. Kosovo's ethnic Albanians have a high birthrate of 34 per 1,000.

Alistair Cooke, still foxy at 80

By William H. Honan

ALISTAIR COOKE, the genteel and erudite journalist and television host who seems to have a graceful comment for every imaginable circumstance, turned 80 this month.

And sure enough, when asked for his wisdom about that, he was not at a loss for words.

"In one of his last letters," Cooke said by telephone from San Francisco, "P.G. Wodehouse wrote that the great privilege of becoming an octogenarian is that you're no longer expected to go to parties."

"Wodehouse added," said Cooke, with a chuckle as mellow as warm brandy, "The thought that I shall never again have to wear a funny hat is sustaining."

But if Cooke is about to be liberated from socialising and darning unlively headgear, he is surrendering little else.

He retains his seat as host — headwaiter, he sometimes says — of public television's "Masterpiece Theatre."

His weekly BBC radio broadcast called "Letter From America" is now in its 42nd year and is heard in 52 countries. And Cooke is publishing his 12th book, "America Observed" this month.

This volume, a collection of his droll, witty and pungent dispatches from the United States for The Guardian newspaper between 1946 and 1972, reveals his early penchant for a style now familiar to his television audience.

Cooke has an uncanny knack for singling out the hidden, the topical and the peripheral as a stand-in for the cosmic, the universal and the eternal.

For example, as chief American correspondent for The Guardian, Cooke journeyed to Cutchogue, New York, ("in the heart of potato country") to take the pulse of America on the Fourth of July.

He attended a Billy Graham rally in Madison Square Garden and noticed that the women in the audience ("joyless matrons and their lumpy daughters") inclined to wearing hydrangea blue.

He observed that the liberal governor of a Northern state who refused to address a segregated audience in the South had, accepted a speaking engagement in Dearborn, Michigan, unaware that Dearborn had been bragging that blacks were not permitted to live within the city limits.

He found "terse poems" in California place names like Fair Play, Indian Diggins, Copperopolis, Bogus Thunder and Itoe, which got its Spanish-sounding appellation when a government official refused to accept its real name, Bedhug, as a postal address.

Elsewhere, Cooke has observed that Americans tend to lean forward while listening to the radio while people in Britain prefer to lean back.

Years ago, when he went to Washington to cover the trial of Alger Hiss, he stayed in to report on the trial of a vaudevillian who had broken her contract — a trial that he found illustrative of many of the same themes as the Hiss trial.

"It's just part of me that I do notice small things and they be-



Cooke: singing out stand-ins for the cosmic

come symbolic," Cooke remarked. "I get letters from people who say how come you find significance in such tiny things? Well, I don't think anything is tiny. Let me give you an example."

"On the night of the election, I was in a supermarket and I overheard a large plump woman with a foreign accent say to a small wizened woman, 'Why, why, why did you vote for Dukakis?' And the wizened lady said very gravely, 'Because 85 per cent of the people in prison in the United States were not breast-fed!'"

Asked who might have influenced the development of his reporting style, Cooke cited Mark Twain, H.L. Mencken and E.B. White, and then said: "But there was one man who had a very great influence on me and that was D.W. Brogan, the British historian."

"When I read Brogan I noticed he could give you the most concise sort of Harold Laskian analysis of something in government, but he would cap it with an anecdote from James Farley or some precinct captain or a lyric

from Cole Porter. I think I realised from him how it could be done."

Despite being one of the most successful communicators of his time, Cooke has not entranced every member of his audience.

A reviewer for The Times Literary Supplement of London criticised his book "Alistair Cooke's America" for "random explanations" that would leave the general reader "almost certainly hopelessly confused." And James T. Flexner, author of a four-volume biography of George Washington, declared in The New York Times that the "America" television show was "far short of satisfying" and "full of historical errors."

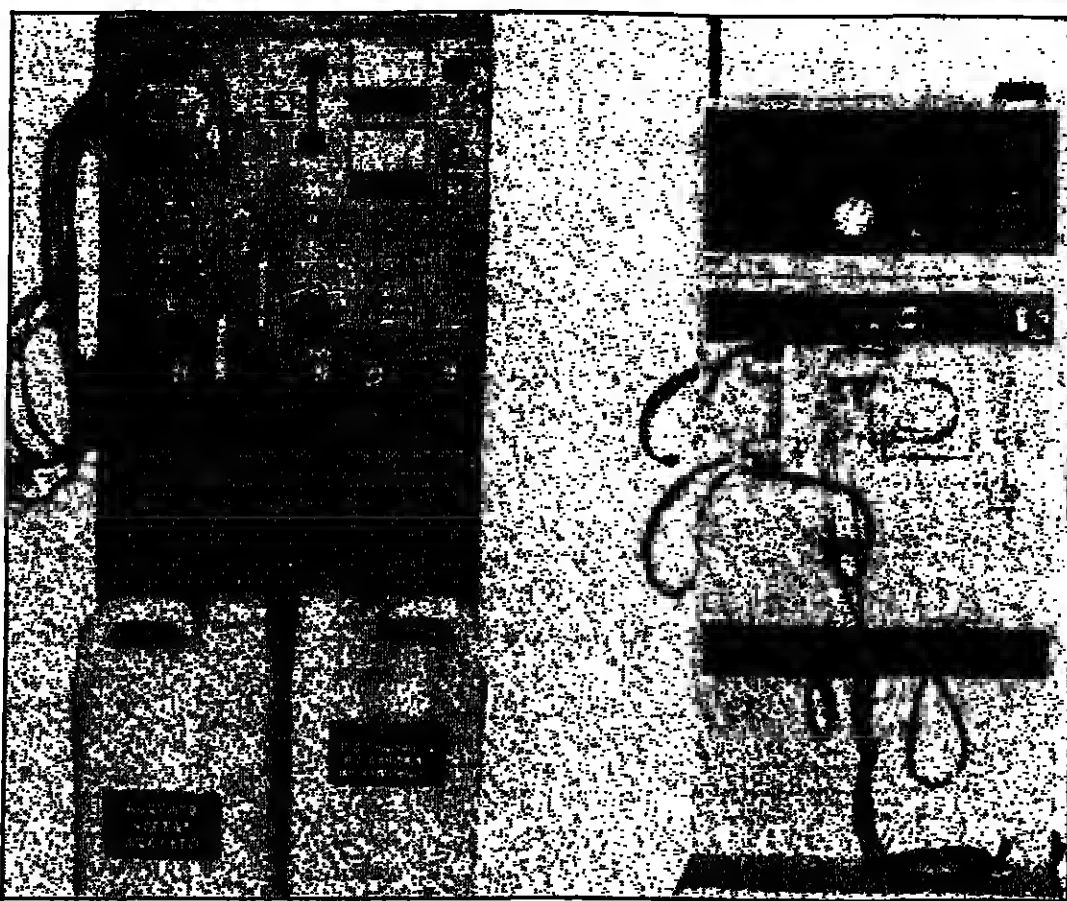
Reminded of such criticisms, Cooke sighed and said, "Academicians just hate squatters on their territory."

"I think I've lasted," he continued "because I found out that what people really wanted to know was anything that you notice in life, and especially things that touch everybody, touch a bishop and a farmer."

"That's become the thing I love more than television, more than print — to write for talking. Ideally, you would like to talk like the first chapter of Genesis, or John Bunyan or Defoe — the language that anybody can understand. It's not easy because you're disciplining your imagination every step of the way."

Cooke takes pride in being a reporter as opposed to a pundit. The great excitement for me is to try and do a fair report. Nobody can be objective, but I think of Isaiah Berlin's great distinction, taken from the Greek poet Archilochus, about the difference between a hedgehog and a fox.

The hedgehog, Berlin said, wants to see the world ordered the way it ought to be, and Berlin quotes Plato, Dante and Bernard Shaw as typical examples of that. "Then Berlin cites Pushkin, Tolstoy and Shakespeare as foxes who are more excited by the way life is with all its contradictions. I'm with the foxes."



Kidney units for dialysis bought recently for the Princess Haya hospital.

Kingdom lacks donors

Society helps kidney patients

One of the most expensive treatments is the treatment of kidney patients. Sana Atiyeh interviews specialists in the field and sheds light on different societies involved in helping patients.

AMMAN — When the Jordanian Friends of Kidney Patients Society (FKP) was established in January 1981, there were only 200 registered kidney patients in the country. Today, there are approximately 400 people known to be suffering from kidney dysfunction who undergo dialysis, cleansing of blood, up to twice a week.

According to ophthalmologist (specialised in kidneys) Dr. Tarek Suheimat, there are 400 kidney patients in Jordan and 25 per cent of them die a year, a percentage he regards as too high.

According to FKP's president, Dr. Makram Nusheiwat, a gynaecologist at Al Bashir Hospital, kidney failure was not widely recognised as curable among the majority of people in the country before 1981. The number of kidney patients dying then was high.

The only hospital treating kidney patients at the time was Al Hussein Medical Centre. Establishing a society to help needy people suffering from kidney diseases was first suggested by one of the founding members who had a son suffering from kidney dysfunction, according to Nusheiwat. When the FKP was founded, it was the first of its kind in the Middle East.

The society was mainly founded in order to assist patients all over the Kingdom who cannot afford treatment. Nusheiwat told the Jordan Times that dialysis could cost each patient up to JD 800 per month, a sum not many people can afford. Besides not being able to pay for treatment, many patients have to travel long distances to centres providing dialysis. The society has helped them by either giving them transportation money or free tickets on public transport.

The society also provides patients who have families to support to start self-help projects that would enable them to start

private businesses such as opening shops for themselves, or helping them find jobs.

In addition, FKP contributes financially to patients receiving kidney transplants, usually performed at Al Hussein Medical Centre.

Only 200 transplants have been conducted in Jordan since 1972, according to Suheimat, who added that only few immediate relatives approve of donating good kidneys after death. Suheimat said that only 25 deceased had their kidneys donated for transplants, although donating organs from the dead is approved by Islamic sharia (law).

"Medical facilities are available for transplants, but there is a lack of donors," Suheimat told the Jordan Times, adding that only living close relatives are allowed to donate their kidneys. He said that some desperate patients travel to India or Egypt for transplants where they can buy the organs, an act considered medically unethical. Besides being unethical, Suheimat noted that kidneys from relatives has a much higher chance of surviving: transplants from relatives has a chance of succeeding 95 per cent, while unrelated, 70 per cent.

The FKP has cooperated with both government and non-government organisations in extending help in kidney patients, according to Nusheiwat. The Ministry of Health opened kidney treatment centres at Al Bashir Hospital, and at Zarka and Irbid hospitals. The Royal Medical Corps also opened centres in Karak and Ajloun (near Irbid), to serve those in the country's regions, the society bought two kidney units (dialysis machines) to be based at the Princess Haya Hospital in Aqaba. Nusheiwat said that they will be installed in the beginning of the new year. He added that the FKP will also raise funds to buy two more units for the Jordan Valley region.

The society receives support from the ministry, where a special budget is allocated for kidney patients. Nusheiwat noted that a large number of patients do not pay for dialysis, a process lasting several hours each session. He added that those who have a decent income only pay a fraction of the cost.

Besides the ministry support, the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) also provides assistance on yearly basis to the society, which depends on funds from public and private organisations. Nusheiwat said that a project in cooperation with GUVS will be studied on obtaining a mobile with two kidney units that would go to the patients so they would not have to travel long distances. He also acknowledged that banks and individuals also provide for the FKP's fund.

"In fact, the first FKP offices were rooted by Princess Basma, the honorary chairperson, for us. And there are many individuals — some of whom remain anonymous — who contribute their goodwill," Nusheiwat said. As a method of fundraising,

the society holds regular social activities, such as dinner parties with lectures. But Nusheiwat said that funds are still short, especially that FKP wants to expand its support for patients.

He added that the aim of FKP is not only to provide financial assistance, but also to give moral support to patients and their families. Other objectives include efforts to establish separate centres for kidney patients, as well as training staff with the help from official and private institutions; supporting scientific research studies in kidney diseases; and implementing public awareness campaigns on the causes and dangers of kidney dysfunction. The latter project is already on its way, Nusheiwat said, and a committee has been formed to prepare the campaigns.

What are the causes of kidney diseases, and how can we prevent it? According to Suheimat, the most common cause of chronic nephritis (kidney disease) in the Middle East is from toxins circulating in the body as a result of throat and tonsils infection, as well as infections from cuts in the skin.

"Another aspect that contributes to the disease is high blood pressure, which hardens the arteries, including the vessels in the kidneys," Suheimat said, adding that diabetes will suffer irreversible damage and the end result would be poor functioning of both kidneys.

The nephrologist explained that patients who have a history of infection in the urinary tract (with or without stones) could eventually damage the kidneys if not treated at the early stages. Also, some children are born with hereditary malformed kidneys that leads to dysfunction by the age of 40, Suheimat said.

The doctor warned that patients can lose 60 per cent of their kidney function by the time symptoms begin to show, and advised that blood tests be conducted for early diagnosis. He added that if people notice pain in the groin, strange urine colour, or getting up regularly at night to go to the toilet, they should seek early professional consultation.

Suheimat went on to say that there should be "aggressive and proper treatment of those suffering from high blood pressure and diabetes. And there must be family counselling in hereditary kidney dysfunction."

He continued that an effective way preventing chronic nephritis is for the high-risk groups (diabetics, high blood pressure, heart patients, etc.) to avoid medications from Aspirin to medicine for back-aches, arthritis and painkillers.

"Doctors should be very careful not to prescribe certain medication to the high-risk groups. Also, if a person has stone-forming tendencies, he or she should avoid multi-vitamins and calcium. The best prevention is generally for people to observe a good balanced diet, and take plenty of fluids, especially in the summer," Suheimat advised.

Moose hit by mysterious virus, high radioactivity

By Cecilia Lonnell

The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — More than two years after the Chernobyl nuclear accident, radiation in some Swedish moose is going up rather than down, puzzling scientists and frustrating hunters.

The moose, the largest land animal in northern Europe, is Sweden's most important game animal. Some businesses and even entire villages close down while the men go off for the traditional hunt during the shortening days of late fall.

This winter some freezers will be bare of the prized meat. Bo Thelander, spokesman for the Swedish Hunting Association, said hunters were reluctant to go out in areas where high contamination levels made the meat inedible.

"They like their moose and do not want to shoot if it's not for meat," Thelander said, even though the swiftly growing moose population should be thinned

out. Fallout from the 1986 accident drifted northwest on a freakish wind, contaminating a belt in north and central Sweden. The problem was acute for northern reindeer farmers, whose stocks grazed on lichen which retained high levels of cesium. Thousands of animals were destroyed.

"We didn't think moose were at risk, but it turned out that levels were two to three times higher than last fall," Thelander said. He called it "inexplicable."

The radioactive half-life of cesium 137, one of the main pollutants from Chernobyl, is 30 years. That means it would take that long for the radiation to "decay" by half. Still, according to reason, the radiation should be declining rather than increasing.

A level of 1,500 becquerels per kilogramme is the threshold for meat to be sold. A becquerel is a measure of the rays emitted by a radioactive substance.

Hans Lonnjoe, head of research at the radiation ecology department at the Agricultural College in Uppsala, said the

moose may have been eating mushrooms, which absorb cesium from the ground, even though mushrooms are not their favourite food.

Deer often have high becquerel levels from the mushrooms, Lonnjoe said. Levels in game vary during the year with the forage. Last June levels were down, but they climbed sharply in late summer after the grazing season, he said.

The Hunters' Association sent out leaflets to members detailing the risks of eating high-becquerel

meat. In humans, accumulating 50,000 becquerels a year is considered dangerous, increasing the risk of cancer. Cesium contamination is particularly dangerous for the muscles, spleen and liver.

Experts say a baby boom among moose increased the population from around 100,000 in 1970 to over 450,000 early this decade. It has since been culled to under 400,000, with 176,000 animals shot in one year alone.

Still, forestry companies complain that moose are foraging on young trees.

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Revealing vast war damages

Iran to spend \$750m in first phase of reconstruction plans

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran will spend more than \$750 million in the first phase of its post-war reconstruction plan to rebuild large parts of its industry devastated in the eight-year-old war with Iraq, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Saturday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said the Abadan oil refinery, the biggest in the world and virtually destroyed in the early days of the war, will resume partial operations within four months.

The Iranians regard rebuilding the Abadan refinery, which suffered the worst damage among Iran's seven much-bombed refineries, a symbolic move as well as an economic necessity.

It, along with several other key

oil installations battered by the Iraqi air force, has been given top priority in the reconstruction plan approved by the Iranian parliament Wednesday.

Tehran Radio, also monitored in Nicosia, has said that \$500 million of the amount allocated for reconstruction will be spent during the current Iranian year ending March 21.

The breakdown on how the funds will be spent given by Deputy Prime Minister Hamid Mirzadeh at a Tehran news conference Saturday was the most detailed blueprint the Iranians have so far provided of their ambitious reconstruction plan since fighting

battled with an United Nations-sponsored ceasefire Aug. 20.

It involved rebuilding gas refineries, steel mills, chemical plants, power plants, processing plants, broadcast transmitters, railways, roads, airports and housing are all part of the five-year reconstruction plan.

The repeatedly bombed Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern end of the Gulf, through which 90 per cent of Iran's oil exports pass, was also mentioned high on the repair list.

So are a major steel plant in the southwestern oil capital of Ahvaz and the Kangan natural gas treatment plant, 85 per cent completed, further south down the Gulf.

The \$180 million Kangan plant was heavily damaged in an Iraqi air strike June 30, killing 13 South Korean workers. South Korea's Daegim Construction Co. stopped work on the project.

Kangan will start production of 34 million cubic metres of natural gas by April, the agency said.

The first phase of rebuilding the Abadan refinery will cost \$70 million, IRNA said.

The refinery will produce 130,000 barrels of petroleum products a day by next April, which will save more than \$400 million in foreign exchange, the agency quoted Mirzadeh as saying.

That is only about one-fifth of Abadan's pre-war capacity of 630,000 barrels a day. The Iranians plan to restore full capacity later.

Details of the reconstruction plan show that priority will also be given to repairing large parts of the industrial sectors devastated by the war in an effort to boost domestic production of costly import items.

Mirzadeh said that "priority projects," will cost \$150 million and are designed to relieve severe shortages, particularly in electrical power generation, the agency said.

Power stations were another key target of Iraq's powerful air force during the fighting.

Priority projects will include power plants in Khuzestan in the southwest and the central cities of Mazandaran and Isfahan. These will have an initial output of 700 megawatts by February, rising to 1,600 megawatts by June, Mirzadeh said.

The power plants are needed quickly to reduce scheduled daily blackouts across the country which have stirred a public outcry in the media.

Mirzadeh added that another \$255 million will be spent on renovation of the Razi and Kharg chemical plants, the Mahsbahr liquid gas plant and Maroon gas injection complex.

He said \$500,000 has been allocated for urban installations such as water works, and \$89 million for reconstruction of houses and schools.

Commenting on how Iran would go about securing the expertise for rebuilding, Mirzadeh said: "our reliance will be on domestic forces."

"Regarding some installations, we might use foreigners as technical advisors. But we will leave implementation entirely up to the domestic forces," he emphasised.

Iran has recently signed agreements with several countries in an effort to acquire the needed expertise for its projects.

Parliament speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani Saturday expressed the hope when he met the visiting leader of Poland's parliament, Roman Malinowski, that Warsaw will help in Iran's reconstruction, Tehran television reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, reported Rafsanjani as saying that Iran hopes to be able to use Poland's post-World War II experience in rebuilding.

In the past two weeks, Iran has signed reconstruction agreements with West Germany, the Soviet Union and other East Bloc countries.

Volcker 'ridicules' Bush's flexible freeze on spending

TOKYO (R) — Former U.S. central bank chairman Paul Volcker voiced doubts Sunday about the ability of the United States to take the tough steps needed to cut its huge budget deficit and keep the world economic expansion on track.

"There is reason to doubt whether the change in policy will be made in a timely and effective way," he told a forum sponsored by the Tokyo Club Foundation for Global Studies.

If the United States fails to act, the dollar will be sold, U.S. interest rates will rise and the worldwide economic expansion will come to an end, Volcker said.

He disparaged U.S. Presi-

dent-elect George Bush's plan to cut the deficit through a so-called flexible freeze on spending and said that a tax increase looked unavoidable.

"I do not know what a flexible freeze is," the former Federal Reserve chairman said. "It depends on whether you emphasise the freeze or the flexibility."

Volcker repeated his call for an increase in the U.S. petrol tax. A 50-cent-per-gallon increase over a period of time, combined with spending cuts, could balance the U.S. budget in four or five years, he said.

But, he acknowledged, "that (tax) is politically very difficult." "Without action on the budget deficit, we are living on borrowed

money" as well as borrowed money," he noted.

Volcker emphasised the importance of stable currency rates, saying a weaker dollar would serve only to push up inflation in the United States.

"We ought to defend the dollar," he said.

The former chairman also voiced concern about the plight of heavily indebted developing countries.

"The problem is not improving greatly," he said. "We need some modification in approach."

Third World nations must be able to count on receiving more loans in the future in return for putting their economies in better shape, he said.

Nyerere blames industrialised states for Third World debts

KUWAIT (AP) — Former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere declared Saturday that the industrialised countries are partly to blame for the Third World's economic problems.

Opening a meeting of the South-South Committee, Nyerere said: "We don't want to blame the North for everything, but it would be ridiculous not to blame the North altogether."

The committee was set up by the Non-Aligned Movement in September 1986 to review the economic performance of developing countries south of the Equator.

The conference was organised by the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

Nyerere said: "The North's decisions affect everybody in the world. When the leaders of the key seven industrialised countries meet anywhere, their decisions will affect our lives," he noted.

"Therefore, it is not possible to

discuss our problems without discussing the contribution to these problems by the North," Nyerere said.

The Non-Aligned Movement reported at a foreign ministers conference in Cyprus in September that the Third World's combined debt totals \$1,200 billion and is mounting. Most of the countries are among the poorest in the world.

Some 30 leading Third World economists attended the session in Kuwait. They include former Kuwaiti finance minister Abdul Latif Al Hamad, who heads the AFESD.

Conference sources said the group is seeking to find ways to improve developing countries' economic situations.

"The meeting is aimed at mustering international support to the quest of development in Third World countries and promoting cooperation among the poor countries of the South," said an AFESD official, speaking on

condition of anonymity.

He said that other topics on the agenda include Third World debts, relations among the countries of the South, the North-South dialogue and the challenges of technology.

"There is now convincing evidence that the economic crises in the Third World are in no small measure the result of a massive malfunctioning of the international arrangements which govern the flows of international trade, money, finance and investment," he said.

"Over those kinds of arrangements, the developing countries have no control," he noted.

The committee, which first met in New Mexico in August last year, aims to conduct "a fresh and objective analysis of the formidable economic, social and political challenges confronting the nations of the Third World, and of the ways to meet them, as the 20th century draws to a close."

M.E. business needs flexibility

By John West
Special to the Jordan Times

Currently in Jordan with a British trade delegation, he puts forward some of his ideas in a talk at the British Council last Thursday.

Family structure

"One of the major differences in family structure," he maintains, "a difference which has definite repercussions in the workplace."

"A British child is one of maybe two or three — he may hardly be in contact with aunts, uncles and cousins. His grandparents may be in an old people's home. When he reaches the age of 16 or 18 he becomes independent, goes and lives by himself. The commercial ramifications of this: Competitiveness becomes more embedded."

The Arab child, by contrast, by the time he looks for employment, is adept in dealing in a large but closely woven family net, involving maybe twenty or thirty people. In these larger groups, individual aspirations are often traded off against family interests. As a result, personal ambition is less prominent as a motivating force among Arabs when they engage in business.

Extended family concepts, according to Mr. Shennib, also dominate the formation of companies in the Arab World.

In Britain, however, where family groups are smaller and the individual usually enters the economy as an individual, large corporations are formed.

"Interestingly, where family companies survive in Britain, it is the traditional industries — bakeries or handicrafts," he noted.

Renegotiation

The morale of the story? "We Arabs, when we want something to happen, we want it to happen now. The Englishman's caution loses him the deal time after time. The Italian, on the other hand, once he had already committed the Arab to the deal, and made him dependent on it, could renegotiate."

Mr. Shennib is well placed to judge the different cultural baggage Arabs and Anglo-Saxons bring to the negotiating table. He is a native-born Libyan, who is now a naturalised British citizen, having lived there for the last twenty five years.

As the managing director of Middle East Business Consultants Ltd, he is involved daily in putting businessmen from the two cultures side by side and getting them to work together.

Accessibility

Accessibility is another key difference. "If someone wants to come and see you in the Arab countries, they just come round. In Britain, sometimes it takes a week for a man to be able to spare you twenty minutes." Such formal time-scheduling, deemed vital by the Anglo-Saxon, is often seen by the Arab as an unnecessary constraint.

Since many of the younger generation of Arab businessmen and women have adopted Anglo-Saxon modes of rigorous time allotment, the discussion which

followed Mr. Shennib's talk was particularly interesting.

There was no reason to suppose, one member of the audience suggested, that traditional Arab "coffee and hospitality" methods of dealing with business were any less efficient. Capable bedouin leaders who sat entertaining several petitioners at once with formal hospitality, could get as much business done by the end of the morning as capable British businessmen who had six or seven separate consecutive interviews.

In fact, the very top echelons of international capitalism — the Trumps, Rowlands and Bonds — are also distinguished, amongst other things, by their ability to handle many different and complicated transactions simultaneously.

Authority and specialisation were two other key areas where East and West varied.

The large, impersonal British company is peopled with departments, sub-departments and executive vice-presidents where a sizeable contract may require several many deliberative and decision-making stages. Such an involved process, says Mr. Shennib, may be irksome to the Arab trader, whose personal word is all that is necessary to get things going.

"If one man agrees on the spot, and the other says, yes, it is a very good idea, he will consult with the planning and finance departments and get back to you, who do you prefer?"

Personal word

That the Arab's personal word is sufficient highlights another difference: The formal, legalistic Anglo-Saxon mind accepts contracts alone as an acceptable means of doing business, whereas for the Arab, contracts tend to remain lifeless pieces of paper, irrelevant beside the much more essential prerequisite: Trust.

Whereas a British businessman is considered successful to the extent that he can avoid the need for personal trust by replacing it with legal guarantees, the Arab executive may consider the recourse to legality as demeaning

and even cowardly. To a Westerner, it is a sign and even moving sight to witness a contract involving thousands of dinars sealed on the signing of a document, by the recitation of the first chapter of the Koran, considered by parties concerned as much irrevocable than any legal obligation.

Mistrust

"The problem, here," Shennib added, "is that these means of settling contracts, personal and the legal, are self-sufficient that they automatically lead to mistrust of the other. For a Briton, a partner's reluctance to use contracts seems highly suspicious, while Arab, a partner's insistence upon them seems equally suspicious."

He urged British business however, to be more flexible when dealing in the Middle East.

Upwards, downwards

These various differences point to one clear overall framework. The Briton starts from nothing and gradually works upwards, dismantling his crises and scepticism. The Arab starts from total satisfaction, works downward, gradually lowering his expectations.

The Briton at first sees only difficulties, the Arab only possibilities.

Adjusting to differences

The most important thing, Mr. Shennib suggests, is to acknowledge these differences and adjust to them. Britons unacquainted with the Middle East's past have regarded the Arab initial enthusiasm as naive optimism, and the disinclination formalise arrangements as necessarily a sign of unreliability. Arabs have seen in Anglo-Saxon caution a highly suspicious off-handedness, and have, in historical circumstances, interpreted their insistence upon contracts and formal appointments as the inheritance of racism.

The realisation that ways making a deal are as culture bound as ways of getting married, decorating a home or expressing grief, is invaluable.

Dealers fear sharp swing for dollar

LONDON (R) — The dollar, which started the month erratically, could swing sharply Wednesday's key U.S. trade statistics as world currency markets stay volatile in the run-up to Christmas.

But reaction to a good or bad trade deficit, seen as a barometer of America's economy, would probably be short-lived as many traders said they were unwilling to take big risks in such easily-swayed markets.

"Overall the risk for the dollar... is still on the downside but you can never quite anticipate these year-end markets," said David Sawyer, a vice-president of foreign exchange marketing at First Chicago in London.

Economists generally forecast an October deficit of \$10.7 billion after September's \$10.46 billion shortfall. The dollar skidded about three pence lower last month after Washington released September trade numbers.

The dollar ended in New York Friday at 1.7375 Deutschmarks and 122.65 Japanese yen, about one pence and one yen up on the week.

It jumped to 1.7730 marks Wednesday on Soviet plans to cut troop levels as some traders thought the United States might respond by slashing its own defence outlays thereby helping lower the heavy U.S. budget deficit.

Thursday, President Reagan said the United States must especially maintain its military strength and the dollar edged lower.

Saturday, a member of the U.S. Federal Reserve (central bank) board of governors said the

dollar's present value was a proper level for U.S. companies to compete successfully and to lower the huge trade deficit — blamed by some economists for global economic imbalances.

Edward Kelley told a group of state legislators the trade deficit would improve but at a slower pace than previously and would benefit from a cut in the federal budget deficit.

Yen trading is likely to remain jumpy while Japanese Emperor Hirohito's health deteriorates, traders said.

The expected resignation Friday of Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa had little impact on the yen.

Dealing in marks hinges on whether West Germany will raise interest rates.

West Germany's new econo-

mics minister, Helmut Haugmann Friday, talked of the need for action against creeping inflation fanning speculation about the prospect of higher interest rates.

Some dealers said the central Bundesbank could raise its 5 per cent rate to 5.50 from five per cent after its Thursday council meeting, although others said rise in interest rates was likely yet.

"I cannot see the Bundesbank raising rates unless the U. moves first," said one Frankfurt dealer. "The impact of a unilateral Bundesbank rate rise would be catastrophic for the dollar."

The pound has also suffered from West German interest rate jitters, dealers said, but doubted the weakness would be given high British interest rates

Japanese dominate foreign buyers in Hong Kong real estate market

HONG KONG (R) — In August 1985 the Japanese left Hong Kong after occupying the British colony for more than three years.

Forty years later, they began buying property. Now, they are Hong Kong's largest overseas real estate investors.

"A lot of people don't appreciate the depth of interest in Japan about the Hong Kong market," said a Hong Kong property consultant. "They are major players and are here to stay."

Real estate analysts estimate that Japanese concerns bought almost \$650 million worth of Hong Kong property in 1987 — triple their 1986 investment.

Hong Kong has attracted investors from all over the world, with mainland Chinese and Austrians active recently.

But because of their numbers and purchasing power, the Japanese stand out.

They began buying Hong Kong property heavily in 1985, when the yen started its rise. Prices in the colony looked cheap from Japan because the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the U.S. unit

and has fallen along with it, depreciating by 33 per cent against the yen since the end of 1986.

Analysts say Japanese investment in 1988 should equal 1987 levels. Investors have come on strongly in the last few months, making up for a lull following the global stock market crash in October 1987.

Japanese investors are attracted by the high yields available in the colony's booming property market and by a taxation system that does not tax capital gains.

Compared to Japan where a three per cent yield is considered high, initial yields from rents in Hong Kong start at five per cent and can climb to 10 per cent once leases expire and are renegotiated.

"The Japanese domestic market is not very attractive so they are looking for an alternative in world financial centres and Hong Kong is no exception," said Shigeru Kosegi, an associate director of Jones Lang Wootton Real Estate Analysts.

What makes Hong Kong espe-

cially attractive to Japanese is its location, only five hours away from Tokyo by air.

"Proximity to Japan may be one of the most important reasons for all the Japanese interest. It helps investors feel comfortable," said a consultant.

But not all Japanese are comfortable investing in the territory, with its reputation for quick deals and its political future clouded by the return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

With Hong Kong people themselves nervous about what will happen to the territory once China takes over, some Japanese investors are wary of how long the boom market can last.

"It's a very good market now but nobody knows when it will be over. I only recommend it as speculation and not as an investment," said Taichi Makino, head of Makino Estates Agency which specialises in Japanese small investors.

The speculators who have taken the plunge have invested heavily in commercial, residential and hotel projects.

Paul Sun, a Japanese-born Chinese, bought a site in a tourist and hotel district of Tsimshatsui for \$85 million Hong Kong dollars (\$113.5 million).

1986. The just-completed Plaza complex of hotel, office and department store is worth three billion dollars (\$384.6 million), analysts said.

EIE, a Japanese company which has listed a subsidiary the Hong Kong Stock Exchange has traded actively and aggressively, buying and selling office apartment blocks and a hotel, also bought half of Bond Central, one of Hong Kong's newest office buildings.

Analysts say most deals are smaller, however, ranging from 100 million to 300 million dollars (\$13 million to \$38 million).

"What we're seeing here third tier Japanese companies and individuals who are enterprising and willing to take risks said a property analyst.

"With the strength of the yen they are able to take the risks others can't," he noted.

Chase to sell last shares in Saudi bank

RIYADH (R) — Chase Manhattan Bank is moving ahead with plans to sell its remaining 15 per cent stake in Saudi Investment Bank (SAIB) but some details have yet to be finalised, banking sources have said.

One banker said the Saudi financial authorities gave Chase the go-ahead several weeks ago and the sale was expected some time next year.

He said the sale price had yet to be fixed. A second issue was whether Chase's shares would be offered first to current shareholders or to the public at large.

Chase originally held a 20 per cent stake in the bank. It sold a quarter of its shares last year to the local National Industrialisation Company which had earlier bought the five per cent stake of West Germany's Commerzbank.

SAIB, Saudi Arabia's smallest bank, had total assets of 4.52 billion riyals as of Dec. 31, 1987.

Other shareholders are private Saudi investors (36 per cent), the General Organisation for Social Insurance (GOSI), National Commercial Bank and Riyadh Bank (each with eight per cent), Bank Al Jazira, Industrial Bank of Japan and J. Henry Schroder Wagg and Company (each with five per cent).

DHL gets award as best courier

AMMAN (J.T.) — Worldwide readers of MEED magazine have selected DHL as the "best courier company serving the Middle East."

The award from the magazine to the air express company was made at a special presentation in Bahrain last month.

Accepting the award on behalf of DHL, Regional Manager Graham Davey said that this recognised the huge investment made in equipment and resources in recent years.

"DHL is only as good as the performance of our staff and stations at both origin and destination," Davey said.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday Dec. 11, 1988					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	469.0	471.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	382.6	384.5
Pound Sterling	865.7	870.0	Dutch guilder	239.0	240.5
Deutschmark	270.0	271.4	Swedish crown	77.8	78.3
Swiss franc	320.1	321.7	Italian lira (for 100)	36.5	36.7
French franc	79.0	79.4	Belgian franc (for 100)	128.8	129.4

Monk killed, 13 injured in clashes, Peking reports

Calm returns to Lhasa

PEKING (Agencies) — A Tibetan monk was shot dead by police and 13 people were injured Saturday during a protest march in Lhasa for independence, Chinese state television said Sunday.

In the last item on its main evening news bulletin, it said the demonstrators had ignored warnings from the police who were left with no choice but to open fire.

It said that, of the 13, 11 had slight injuries and two serious. Among the injured was a Dutch woman who the television said had entered Tibet three times on a tourist visa and "became active after the demonstration began."

The television report gave no more details.

Lhasa was calm Sunday as armed police patrols imposed tight security after the unrest, Westerners in the city said.

They said police bullets had killed several demonstrators Saturday including a Buddhist monk who headed the march waving the banned flag of Tibetan independence.

A Dutch diplomat in Peking said the tourist was believed to be Krista Meindersma, 26. She was slightly hurt.

Police in Lhasa, contacted by

telex, confirmed a demonstration had occurred but declined to provide details. The city's tourist bureau said there was "no fighting" in the city and said foreign tourists were welcome.

Saturday's march, in which Tibetans circled the Jokhang Temple in the heart of Lhasa shouting pro-independence slogans, was timed to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Western sources said earlier.

A Western eyewitness said that before the march posters appeared around the city reading "Tibet belongs to the Tibetans, Chinese go home... long live the Dalai Lama."

The same eyewitness quoted Tibetans as saying Lhasa police last week issued warnings that demonstrators would be shot. Police warned tourists to keep away from the temple on the anniversary.

Foreign tourists are still

allowed to visit Tibet although Western journalists are usually denied permission to enter.

Chinese authorities have ignored the human rights anniversary in the past but this year marked the date with official statements pledging support for the declaration.

Peking however reacts angrily to overseas allegations of torture and religious repression in Tibet.

"We are opposed to interfering in other countries' internal affairs in the name of protecting human rights..." China's U.N. representative Ding Yuanhong said last week, in an apparent reference to the troubled region.

Tibet's Communist Party secretary, Wu Jinghua, was sacked earlier this year for failing to halt the simmering unrest which began in September 1987, and was replaced by Hu Jintao.

Speculation that the Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet after an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1959, would meet Chinese officials face-to-face appeared to be quashed last month when Peking insisted it would not discuss "independence or semi-independence."

The Dalai Lama is revered by

most Tibetans as both a religious and national leader.

In July, the Dalai Lama said he was willing to accept Chinese control over Tibet's foreign affairs and a Chinese military presence there if China would give the region autonomy in domestic matters. China rejected the proposal.

Over the past 15 months, Tibetan monks have led a series of anti-Chinese protests. At least 14 people were killed Oct. 1, 1987, when one protest turned into a mass attack on a local police station.

China says Tibet has been part of China since the 13th century. Many Tibetans, however, say they were independent during most of that period, ruled by a Buddhist theocracy headed by the Dalai Lama.

In 1950, Communist Chinese troops entered Tibet and began efforts to weaken the bold of Tibetan Buddhism, closing monasteries and forcing monks to marry and lead secular lives. Chinese troops crushed a Tibetan rebellion in 1959 and the Dalai Lama fled to exile in India, where he remains.

Ariane-4 scores series of firsts for European space programme

KOUROU, French Guiana (Agencies) — Western Europe's Ariane space rocket was launched successfully early Sunday, achieving a series of firsts despite take-off being delayed for more than 24 hours by technical hitches.

The blast-off from the European Space Agency's jungle launchpad was the first commercial launch of the Ariane-4 rocket, the biggest launcher sent into space by Western Europe.

Twenty minutes into its flight, the 60-metre rocket ejected the first military satellite launched by Western Europe, Britain's Sky-net 4B.

Four minutes later, Europe's first privately funded satellite, Astra, was pushed from the rocket's nose cone into orbit, a launch that promises far-reaching consequences for the continent's television viewers.

The satellite will beam up to 16 television channels throughout Europe.

"This has been a very important launch for ArianeSpace, for the satellite companies and for the space industry," said Frederic D'Allest, chairman of ArianeSpace, the company that

built and launched the rocket. After a 24-hour delay caused by technical problems, the rocket blasted off at 9:34 p.m. (0034 GMT Sunday) from the Kourou space centre on the Atlantic coast of French Guiana in South America.

A last-minute hitch developed when an indicator suggested a malfunction of a stop-valve on the third stage, stopping the countdown with just 26 seconds to go.

But the valve was checked and found to be in working order. The countdown resumed after a 30-minute delay and the launch then went flawlessly, officials said.

Once off the ground, the flight had no problems, placing both satellites into earth orbit within 30 minutes after liftoff.

The Astra 1A satellite, owned by a Luxembourg-based consortium, is designed to broadcast 16 channels of television programmes that can be received by dishes as small as 60 centimetres across.

Prince Henri of Luxembourg, who watched the launch from Kourou, said the new satellite backed by his small country's

government could usher in a new television-viewing era in Europe.

"One hundred and fifty years after the declaration of independence of our country, this satellite will allow a new reign of television without frontiers," he told reporters.

Eleven of the channels already have been sold. Officials plan to begin broadcasts in late January, offering all-news, all-sports, all-movies and other programming to 85 per cent of West European homes. Australian-born media magnate Rupert Murdoch is the chief client with his News International group.

Astra officials say they could eventually serve 55 million homes directly and 25 million more connected to small master antenna systems.

Another Ariane rocket last month launched a French competitor, TDF-1, but it has not yet lined up programming for its six channels.

Britain's Sky-net 4B, is to be the first of four such satellites that together will provide a communications network for British navy submarines, surface ships and ground stations.



Glasnost helps CIA

NEW YORK (R) — Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Webster said Mikhail Gorbachev's policies meant more intelligence could be gathered about the Soviet Union but his style posed special challenges, the New York Times reported Sunday.

Because of the Soviet leader's policy of glasnost, or openness, the CIA is getting far more material now about the Soviet Union, the newspaper quoted Webster as saying in an interview Friday.

"We're getting important information from non-traditional clandestine sources who have better access to some of this information than the traditional espionage activity would have," Webster said. He said this included the increased number of trade delegations allowed into the Soviet Union.

President-elect George Bush announced last week that Webster would stay on as director of the CIA.

Webster said the CIA had anticipated Gorbachev's announcement of unilateral troop reductions last week but Gorbachev's penchant for surprises challenged the agency's ability to remain objectively analytical, the Times reported.

"It's part of his style to keep the free world in the so-called reactive role," he said. "Intelligence has a role in identifying opportunities for our country to take the initiative when it should be taking the initiative."

"What we have to be careful is that we are not policy advocates. Sometimes, the identification of opportunities can appear to advocating a particular kind of cause."



Residents of a town in Armenia, following Wednesday's earthquake

Armenian quake survivors dying from 'crush syndrome'

YEREVAN (R) — At the main surgical hospital in the Armenian capital of Yerevan, earthquake survivors are dying from "crush syndrome" — a shortage of kidney machines that could save them.

"We are losing people because we haven't got the equipment," doctor Emma Kostina declared angrily Saturday as she gestured at a ward packed with people plucked from the ruins of Leninakan or the "lost town" of Spitak.

"If you write anything," tell them to send us equipment," Kostina told a group of foreign reporters. "Flows from Moscow to Armenia three days after the quake which killed tens of thousands of people in the Transcaucasian republic."

The hospital's chief doctor, Ruben Ovaskyan, said more than 500 quake survivors were being treated and 79 more had been brought in Saturday, almost all in critical condition.

Over 80 per cent were suffering from "crush syndrome" — dam-

age to tissues which can lead to kidney failure when the human body is subjected to compression under heavy weights.

"This is one of the worst conditions known to modern medicine," said Ovaskyan. "It is largely irreversible."

As he spoke in the bed-lined corridor of the hospital, the Yerevan branch of the Soviet Institute of Surgery, his voice was drowned by an ambulance siren.

"There has been a constant stream of ambulances ever since the disaster. We've no more room, but we can't turn people away," he told the reporters, his face lined with fatigue.

His most serious problem was a chronic shortage of kidney dialysis machines. Two had been delivered from Japan and France in the last 24 hours to supplement the hospital's one American model, Ovaskyan said.

In Moscow, his words were echoed by doctor Mikhail Putintsev at the Soviet capital's Sklif-

sovsky Institute, a major accident hospital to which many of the quake victims had been flown to ease the pressure in Yerevan.

"When people are crushed," Putintsev explained, "it pushes poison into the kidneys. The only way to save them is with these machines, with filters and solutions that flush out the kidneys."

Putintsev told a reporter for the American NBC television network he had seven people already suffering from crushing.

"But my one machine is old-fashioned and they take a lot of time. And I have only enough filters and solution to save two people," he declared, boldering up a phial of solution he said was made in West Germany.

In the Yerevan hospital, pale, grey faces glazed with sweat and contorted with pain, stared out from beds packed together in every available space.

Men, women and children lay side by side, surrounded by weeping relatives.

COLUMN

\$34m jail — without doors

JACKSONVILLE (AP) — A \$34-million contract to build a new five-storey jail lacks one major item — doors. Omitted from the contract was \$1.5 million for 195 electronic sliding glass cell doors and other furnishings, city officials say. "It sounds to me like we're buying a car without the two front wheels. I thought when we voted to go ahead with the jail that it would come complete with doors," said city councilman Matt Carinci. Michael Berg, Sheriff's director of jails and prisons, said the cell doors would be purchased out of a \$2-million contingency fund established to pay for cost overruns.

Too many winners

LAUSANNE (AP) — The organisers of a lottery may have to give away 36 cars instead of the planned six because too many winning tickets were printed, the sponsor said. Philip Chamber, spokesman for the Distributors company, said each person with the winning number 22, who claims the prize will be awarded a car worth about \$10,000. "We will honour the winners," he said. The mountain village of Prassunoy, with less than 100 inhabitants, already has three winners, he said.

Honeyghan to marry — but whom?

LONDON (AP) — Welterweight boxing champion Lloyd Honeyghan says he is getting married a few days before his Feb. 4 world welterweight title defence against Marlon Starling. Now he has to tell his future wife. "Something big is going to happen. I'm getting married," the 28-year-old Briton told reporters. "I'm serious, I'm going to do it a couple of days before the fight." Honeyghan would not say whether his bride would be Jennifer Green, mother of his two youngest children. The fighter has five children by three different women. In fact, he said, the lady of his choice was not even aware she was going to a wedding.

Biblical manuscript sold for \$415,000

LONDON (AP) — An early Christian manuscript containing the first known complete Biblical text of the book of Jonah and the first Epistle of St. Peter sold this week for \$220,000 (\$415,800). The papyrus manuscript, known as the Mississippi Codex, is believed to have been written at Panopolis, now called Achmim, on the Nile River.

Honour awaits Gene Kelly

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Gene Kelly, the dancing star of "Anchors Aweigh," "Singin' in the Rain," and "An American in Paris," will be honoured with the 25th Annual Screen Actors Guild Award, the union says. Kelly, 76, will be given the award at the guild's annual membership meeting in Universal City "for fostering the finest ideals of the acting profession," the organisation announced. The award is the only one presented by the guild.

Police crack down on noisy trains

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — Police are cracking down on railroad engineers who make too much noise at night. Officers have begun ticketing engineers who blast their horns as they travel through downtown Cedar Rapids in violation of a city noise ordinance. Officials of the Chicago and North Western and the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City railroads, whose engineers received tickets, said horns must be sounded at crossings, despite the hour, to warn pedestrians and motorists. City officials want railroads to use discretion between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. if no pedestrians or vehicles are nearby.

Undertaker has coffin problems

WATERFORD, Ireland (R) — An Irish undertaker bitten by a dog in his local pub was awarded 10,000 punts (\$15,000) after he told a court he found it difficult to polish coffins and screw down their lids. "I never expected to get the hand ripped off me when I went for a pint," Thomas Hennessy said after claiming damages against the bar and the large Rotweiler's owner. The owner was demonstrating the dog's tricks, including putting its front paws up on its bar, when Hennessy reached out for his drink and was bitten in the hand.



The site of Thursday's air crash where an American attack jet plowed into a residential neighbourhood

Fiery Remscheid air crash fuels growing concern

By Girard C. Steichen
The Associated Press

BONN — A top West German military official says the fiery crash of a U.S. air force jet that killed six people will further erode popular support for national defence issues.

Fire rescue officials in the city of Remscheid Saturday increased the official death toll to six in Thursday's crash.

Fire brigade leader Berthold Hoehler said the body of a construction worker had been pulled from the rubble of a house destroyed in the accident.

Seven people remained in critical condition Saturday, Hoehler said.

Later Saturday, at least 4,000 people took part in a torchlight vigil and procession in downtown Remscheid to remember the victims and to demand an end to low-level flight training missions.

A U.S. air force A-10 Thunderbolt II attack jet crashed into a working-class neighbourhood in the central West German city of Remscheid Thursday afternoon.

Rescue workers continued to comb the debris Sunday, as work crews tore down the remains of wrecked houses.

In an interview with the Welt am Sonntag newspaper, the inspector general of West Germany's military said the crash was certain to have a serious impact on already sinking public support for defence issues.

"We are in a very difficult psychological situation," Dieter Wellershoff said.

Wellershoff referred to recent public opinion polls indicating dwindling public support for defence spending and increasing dissatisfaction over military training manoeuvres.

"I am alarmed that many West Germans have lost sight of the hard facts (of defence realities) in their hopes for continued peace," he said.

West Germany's skies are crowded with hundreds of jets and helicopters each day. A series of deadly accidents has fuelled growing calls for a halt to or drastic reductions in low-level training flights.

Even before Thursday's fatal crash, 12 major accidents of military aircraft had killed 95 people this year alone. They included 70 people who died as a result of an air show crash in Ramstein in August.

Following the Remscheid crash, temporary suspensions of low-level training missions were ordered.

But a new public opinion poll released Saturday indicated that the majority of West Germans favour drastic, long-term reductions in the flights.

According to the poll, conducted by the Wicket Institute in Tübingen, 61 per cent of the respondents said they believed that low-level flights could be drastically cut without seriously threatening national security. Twenty-seven per cent said they supported complete elimination of the flights.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Spiegel names Gorbachev 'Man of Year'

HAMBURG (R) — The West German news magazine Der Spiegel has chosen Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as its "Man of the Year" for 1988. In its latest edition, Spiegel said it was making its first annual award as recognition of Gorbachev's statesmanship. The award, it said, would not necessarily be continued every year. Gorbachev's major achievement, the weekly said, was "the reformer of a system which had been believed to be impossible to reform."

Bangladesh cabinet reshuffled

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshi President Hossain Mobammad Ershad has made a young lawyer his new foreign minister in a sudden cabinet reshuffle. State television Saturday said he appointed Anisul Islam Mahmud, 32, to replace Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, who had resigned on health grounds. Ershad also appointed two new state ministers and reallocated the offices of most of his 23 ministers and 10 state ministers.

Meteor shower due tonight

PROVIDENCE (R) — The most spectacular meteor shower of the year will take place Monday night when astronomers expect up to 50 multi-coloured meteors to flash across the sky each hour. The shooting stars, known as the "Geminid Shower," should be visible round the world beneath clear, dark skies, according to professor Alan Marscher, chairman of the Astronomy Department at Boston University. A few meteors from the shower could be spotted Sunday and Tuesday nights as well.

Physicians say Reagan free of cancer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan got a clean bill of health from his physicians Saturday, who reported that lab tests of tissue taken from his colon show him to be free of cancer, the White House said. "The tissue removed Friday afternoon from President Reagan's colon for biopsy is benign," said a statement issued by presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater.

Computer 'virus' student declines limelight

SYRACUSE (AP) — As a panel decides whether he should be prosecuted, a university student linked to a "virus" that disrupted computers nationwide last month has been teaching his lawyer about the technical subject and turning down offers for his life story. Robert Morris has declined offers from movie producers, book publishers, magazines and television shows around the United States, said his lawyer, Thomas Guidoboni. No charges have been filed against Morris.

Marcos has weakened heart muscles

HONOLULU (R) — Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos was suffering from weakened heart muscles and remained in guarded condition at a Honolulu hospital, his cardiologist said. Marcos, 71, was admitted to St. Francis hospital on the advice of his personal physician, Dr. Calvin Wong, Friday after complaining of chest pains. He was diagnosed to be suffering from congestive heart failure, meaning his heart was unable to maintain adequate blood circulation.